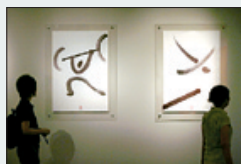




Planetary
realignment
ill-starred for
Pluto.

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Designs on
a green
Olympics.

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A pale view of
hills from the
Lijiang River.

Page 20

Haidian cops raid bike shops in war on thieves

Page 2

Scrap art warns of world gone to waste



Local children explore one of the sculptures at the 'Blue Space' exhibition.

CFP Photo

By He Jianwei

'Blue Space', a sculpture exhibition showing 77 works made of waste materials, opened August 30 in Beijing Aquarium.

The exhibition will be open free to the public from August 30 to the middle of October.

The works on show were selected from over 400 possibles from China and abroad. The exhibition of scrap sculpture is the first of its kind in China, and aims to raise awareness of environmental protection and threats to the global ecology from excess waste.

Air marshals to get US training

By Chu Meng

The first batch of Chinese air marshals are expected to fly to the United States next month for a two-week anti-terror training program, marking the first major co-operation between China and the US in the field of aviation security. The move was announced by the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) earlier this week.

The 18-member team will have training sessions and exchange tactics with their US counterparts in Atlantic City, New Jersey. "They will be deployed to serve on China-US flights operated by domestic airliners," said Yang Chengfeng, director of the security department at the CAAC.

The attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 brought civil aviation security to the forefront of the international agenda. "The latest terrorist plot that was thwarted by British police at Heathrow Airport on August 10 once again alerted the industry that the terrorist threat still lingers large in various forms," Yang said. "So collaboration is urgently needed between China and the US, particularly in the field of security checks, tactics, information, air marshal training and law enforcement."

He added that at least 2,000 Chinese air marshals have served on domestic and international air routes since the force was set up in 2004. "Most of the air marshals, who do not wear uniforms, are drawn from existing airline security personnel. All have been given rigorous courses in arrest techniques, negotiating tactics and crisis management by Chinese security experts."

But he declined to give any detailed information about China's air marshals due to the "special" nature of their mission.

To ensure flight safety and security, China and the US agreed on April 9 to deploy air marshals on board their respective flights entering and exiting the other side's territory by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on bilateral co-operation. US airlines deployed air marshals on flights to China for the first time on August 9.

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babyface

Snail victims demand full compensation

By Qiu Jiaoning

Ten victims of the Amazonian snail meningitis outbreak have formed a union to demand compensation for their hospital bills and loss of income.

The number of people struck down by the illness, caused by half-cooked Amazonian snails served up at Shuguo Yanyi in Beijing, is now up to 90.

Although more than 20 victims have been permitted by doctors to leave hospital, many of them are still suffering from symptoms like headaches and fever and liver malfunction, said Wang Lei, one of the

snail victims.

"Although we have allowed some of the patients to leave hospital, they still need time to completely recover from the illness," said Dr Yin Chenghong from Beijing Friendship Hotel.

Shuguo Yanyi restaurant has paid out 25,000 and 19,000-yuan compensation to two of the victims, but just for their medical costs. Many of the victims are worried about their symptoms and complain that the restaurant has been slow to answer their demands for compensation.

The first case of the snail

related meningitis came to light last Wednesday.

Yang Fangfang, the victim, said that he ate the snail dish in Beijing's Shuguo Yanyi restaurant in May. Dr Wang Jinhui, from the first Affiliated Hospital of Zhongshan University, said that the latent period of the disease could be anything from 24 hours to more than 700 days. He said there was every probability that more and more snail illness cases will come to light as more than 1000 under-cooked snail dishes had been served up at

the Shuguo Yanyi restaurant between May and August 9.

Local authorities announced on Wednesday that all aquatic products sold in Beijing will have to have quarantine certificates stamped by the Beijing quarantine authority and a certificate of origin from November 1. Local authorities in Beijing have ordered all restaurants in the city to stop serving undercooked snails to customers as well as the destruction of aquatic products contaminated with parasites or disease-causing microbes.

Raids target stolen bike trade

By Annie Wei

Police raided more than 20 bicycle shops around Tsinghua University on Monday as part of their latest campaign to clamp down on the trade in stolen bikes.

The officers, from Haidian District, struck as universities opened for the beginning of the new semester — traditionally a time when the number of bicycle thefts rocket.

Most of the shops that were raided had no business licenses and 15 were suspected of purchasing bicycles illegally, police said. They reported finding over 100 used bicycles from "suspect sources".

Police had secretly installed CCTV cameras outside the shops to monitor them before launching the raids. Storeowners found to have been selling stolen goods were detained.

Bicycle theft is a massive problem in Beijing but the Municipal Public Security Bureau (PSB) insists they are getting the upper hand. Between January and July this year police investigated 1,919 cases of stolen bicycles involving 43 gangs. They arrested more than 2,200 suspects and recovered more than 1,600 bicycles. Reports of bicycle thefts had fallen 36.7 percent between May and July this year compared to the same time last year, the PSB said.

Yin Zhiqiang, an officer from the Haidian division of the PSB said college students were the main market for bicycle thieves. The division plans to organize a used-bicycle sale at Beijing University, Tsinghua University, Renmin University and Beihang University over the next two weeks.

The police are also supporting efforts by a material recycling company in Haidian to setup a big market for used bicycles in the area. People who want to sell in the market will have to show their ID, purchasing receipt and a certificate from their company. Customers will also be asked for a form of ID before being allowed to buy a bike.

欢迎走进俄罗斯图书世界



International book fair kicks off

The 13th Beijing International Book Fair began Wednesday at the Beijing International Exhibition Center. Booksellers from over 50 nations and regions attend the fair.

CFP Photo

Hotel staff given first aid training

By Jiang Xubo

One hundred and fifty staff from around 30 four and five star hotels across the capital have been receiving first aid training from the Red Cross this week.

All the hotels, including some assigned for the Beijing Olympic Games like the Grand Hotel Beijing and the China World Hotel, say they will be able to provide first aid services thanks to the training project.

The scheme was jointly launched by the Red Cross Soci-

ety's Beijing Branch (RCSBB) and the Beijing Tourism Administration (BTA).

The five-day training course, which includes theory learning and skills training, will help trainees to identify and deal with emergency illnesses, to provide first aid services and offer psychological relief in and post disasters and to protect customers from infections.

Trainees who pass RCSBB tests at the end of the week will be awarded first aid tutor certificates. They are expected to act as

teachers in the hotels they work in and to help their workmates to master first aid skills.

"In addition to first aid training, we held lectures on how they can train up other people," said Jiang Shaohua, director of the training center. "We will provide further support for those teachers to make sure that they can do a good job."

One in every 80 people is expected to be first aid qualified by 2008. The rate will be higher among employees from targeted businesses including hotels.

Household registration for adopted children

By Han Manman

As of today, children adopted by local families can be granted a Beijing household registration, commonly known by its Chinese name *hukou*.

Authorities have done away with three restrictions to registration in Beijing, concerning the status of adopted children, minors who move to live with a

stepfather and those who go to live with grandparents, according to the population management center of Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau.

Before the amendment, local residents who adopted a child not from Beijing could not apply for a city *hukou* for the child, which had a number of adverse consequences, particularly

regarding schooling. However, the amendment for adopted children only applies where the child is the sole offspring of his or her natural parents.

The amendment has already been circulated to every police station, and residents holding the required documents can apply for a Beijing *hukou* as of today.

24 hour hotline for Olympic volunteers

By Chen Shasha

A special hotline has been launched for people wanting to volunteer during the 2008 Olympic Games.

Organizers are looking to recruit 70,000 volunteers for the Olympics and 30,000 for the Paralympics. They set up the hotline number, 12308, on Monday (August 28) to speed up the recruitment process for those who want to get involved in the Games.

Volunteers will help out at reception areas, help translate, act as security guards, offer medical services and guide spectators during the Games.

Candidates can also visit www.en.beijing2008.com.

Charity helps poor students

By Huang Daohen

Grants to poor students were handed out in a ceremony at Beijing No. 80 High School on August 30, part of a project by Beijing Charity Association (BCA) aimed at ensuring that no children will drop out of school because of poverty.

The project, known as 'Love Builds up the Future', was first launched in 2003, following the re-founding of the BCA. In 2006, some 1,351 primary and junior high school students received a total amount of 1.38 million yuan in financial support. Beneficiaries also included 29 minority ethnic college students.

Donations can be made by calling 6125 2313 or 6235 2173

Jade ceremony held in Panjiayuan

By Gan Tian

Some of China's finest pieces of jade will be on display at Panjiayuan Market from Saturday.

They will form part of the first Chinese Jade Collection Exhibition, organized by the Jade Collection Committee of China Association of Collectors and Panjiayuan International Folk Culture Center, which runs until September 25.

More than 200 pieces of jade from people's private collections will go on show.

"Many pieces of well-known jade will be on show," said Mi Jianjing, the director of Panjiayuan Market. For more information go to www.panjiayuan.cc.

Foreign mapping sparks national security fears

By Annie Wei

The State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping and six other government agencies issued a joint statement on tightening the management of foreign organizations and individuals conducting surveys and mapping in China.

The statement says increasing numbers of foreign organizations and individuals have engaged in mapping and surveys in China in recent years, but many have done so without proper permission, raising national security concerns.

The statement proposes making the conduct and release of unapproved topographical surveys by foreign nationals in China a criminal offense.

Boot camp for young web addicts

By Han Manman

China's first camp designed to help wean Internet addicts off their surfing addiction saw its graduates return home Wednesday from the center in Beijing's Daxing district.

Over 60 web addicted youths, selected from 900 applicants from across the country, completed the five day course of treatment, at a camp jointly organized by the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China, Central Civilization Office, and the General Administration of Press and Publication of China.

Zhang Wei, from the Youth

League, said only eight youths volunteered for the camp, with the rest coming only after being forced by their parents. The Internet addicts, ages ranging between 12 and 23 years old, were all 'typical problem youths' with experience of drug addiction, web love, suicide attempts or running away from home, Zhang said. Some suffered from depression, and most have dropped out from school.

Five days in healthy fresh air and sunshine is a world away from the average young Internet addict's darkened bedroom. Zhang said the youths were divided into nine teams of

seven. Each team had a doctor, a military trainer and a volunteer care worker. The five days of therapy included military training, watching movies and psychological counseling. The trainees also played a real-world version of the popular online first-person shooting game Counter-Strike.

"Playing real-world Counter-Strike helps the young people distinguish between real and virtual worlds," said Zhang. "At least one of the youths' parents was asked to join the training camp and receive training with their child, because a lot of web addiction in the young is down to a lack of

understanding between children and parents."

Zhang said some positive results were already apparent after the five days of treatment. Some of the young people seemed more willing to make friends and to communicate with their parents. "We also created video and document records for each family to make it easy for us to follow up on trainees' progress in the future," added Zhang.

The total number of the Internet users across the country hit 120 million by the end of this June, according to the China Internet Network Information Center. The Internet's rising pop-

ularity is fueling concern that some surfers have become dangerously addicted to the Web.

According to Professor Tao Hongkai of Huazhong Normal University, who has conducted studies on Internet addiction, there are more than 10 million young Chinese people with problem surfing habits. In extreme cases, Internet addiction has been linked to psychological problems, violence against parents and crime. Many addicts drop out of school and become lost in a virtual world. Professor Tao said that online games have changed the fate of thousands of families and children.

Good walk spoiled by Peking University driving range

By Han Manman

Controversy has followed Peking University authorities' announcement of plans to build a golf driving range in a scenic spot on campus. The range is set to be located on the northeast shore of Weiming Lake, a favorite place for students and young lovers to meet and walk.

The plan has attracted an adverse reaction from many students and parents. Some say that university is a place to acquire knowledge, not indulge in luxury pastimes. Others say the driving range is a waste of precious land resources and that the money would be better spent on sports facilities accessible to more of the student body.

"It is not a full golf center, we are actually planning a driving range," a teacher from physical education office said. He said the range would only be 90 meters long and 40 meters wide, taking up just a quarter of the area of the sports ground. Students would be able to practice driving in classes with a maximum of 30 participants in a session.

Hao Guangan, director of the Sport Institute of Peking University which is behind the plans for the range, said the site chosen is currently only used for training in field events such as javelin and discus, meaning much of the area stands idle. "Setting up a practice driving range will not waste limited land resources on campus. It will make fuller use of this site and provide more places for students to exercise," said Hao.

When the range is completed, the sport institute will apply to set up a regular golf class. It is not yet clear whether such a class would be an elective course or a required course for Peking University students. Student golf enthusiasts have already set up their own association for the sport.

The number of golf courses in land-hungry China has increased rapidly in recent years. In Beijing, a growing number of people are playing golf, widely seen as a sport for the elite. Some schools in Beijing, such as Huijia private school, are already offering golf classes to students.



Sickly walls put on drip

Workers inject chemicals to seal cracks in the walls of an ancient building in Turpan, on the Silk Road in Xinjiang.

Xinhua Photo

First human bird flu vaccine 'safe and effective'

By Jiang Xubo

China's first bird flu vaccine for human use has been proved safe and effective in preliminary clinical trials, researchers announced this week. All 120 volunteers who were vaccinated in the tests have shown no serious adverse reactions.

"We are discussing the draft

plan for the second phase trial. We will increase the number of volunteers to up to 400 for further testing of the safety of the vaccine," said Lin Jiangtao, director of respiratory medicine at the China-Japan Friendship Hospital, who is in charge of the trials.

China's regulations only

allow a vaccine to enter the market after three phases of clinical trials. The vaccine was jointly developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Beijing Sinovac Biotech Company (BSBC), a Beijing-based pharmaceutical company.

The vaccine was developed

from the virus's NIBRG-14 strain, on the recommendation of the World Health Organization, which also provided samples of the virus for use in the development process.

The bird flu virus has killed 14 people across the country since 2003.

New fossil find to shed light on dinosaur extinction

By Han Manman

Fossils unearthed recently in Inner Mongolia could explain the mystery of the sudden mass extinction of the dinosaurs.

Paleontologist Tan Lin, of the Inner Mongolia Paleontology Research Center, said the fossils come from about 10 individual dinosaurs and have enormous scientific research value.

The site of the find has been

likened to a 'dinosaur graveyard'. Covering some 80 square meters, it is believed to be the largest site of its kind in the world. Paleontologists said the graveyard belongs to the late Cretaceous period, around 65 million to 70 million years ago, the era in which dinosaurs suddenly became extinct. Tan said excavation work has been suspended pending the arrival

of experts from Paleontology Institute of China Academy of Science, who will work with local researchers to explore evidence for the reasons for dinosaur extinction.

Only a day before the news of the new finds in Inner Mongolia, it was announced that fossils of a previously unknown dinosaur species have been unearthed near Lingwu City in

Ningxia Autonomous Region. The excavation was televised live on national television last Saturday afternoon.

Eight sauropods, huge, long-necked herbivorous dinosaurs living some 160 million years ago, were unearthed in a 3,000 square meter area in Lingwu. The dinosaur is believed a sub-species of diplodocus, usually found only in the southern hemisphere.

Brief news

Higher GDP growth

The National Bureau of Statistics has revised last year's GDP growth rate from an initial 9.9 to 10.2 percent, according to the ministry's latest report issued this Wednesday.

Tax take up

The country's tax revenue has hit around 2,000 billion yuan (US\$251 billion) in the first half of this year, up over 22 percent on that of the same period of last year, according to a report issued this week by the State Administration of Taxation.

Highest monthly income

The average monthly income of the capital's urban residents has reached over 1,820 yuan (US\$230) in July, ranking the first in the country, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Deaths on construction sites rise

Forty-three people have died in construction-related accidents in the capital in the first six months of this year, up some 54 percent on the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Construction.

Free education for 50 million students

The government has spent over 4.6 billion yuan (US\$580) in the first half of this year to ensure nine years compulsory free education for nearly 50 million students in rural western China, said Ma Kai, Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission.

More pollutants

The country has produced over 13 million tons of sulfur dioxide, a major pollutant, in the first half of this year, up over four percent on the same period of last year, a joint report issued this week by the State Environmental Protection Administration and two other government departments states.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Journalists to take the fall in iPod scandal?

By Annie Wei

The Chinese journalists being sued for defamation over their news reports about iPod factories in Shenzhen were expecting to be hit with a case worth up to 30 million yuan in compensation. But as of Wednesday evening, the plaintiffs have agreed to settle for just one yuan. It is the first ever case of a manufacturer suing journalists personally instead of a periodical, and had looked to be potentially the highest amount of compensation demanded for news report defamation in Chinese history.

The case was brought by Foxconn, a Shenzhen-based subsidiary of Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision Industry Co manufacturing iPod music players, against Wang You and her editor Weng Bao, who work for Shanghai-based daily *China Business News*.

The case was brought over a June 15 report in *China Business News* that accused Foxconn of forcing workers to work overtime for little pay, and a series of other infringements of Chinese labor law. Foxconn claims that Wang You's report defamed the company and brought them enormous economic loss.

In addition to the suit, Foxconn has asked the Shenzhen Intermediate People's Court to freeze the journalists' assets. They include apartments in Shanghai and Guangzhou, a car and two bank accounts.

In June, UK newspaper *the Mail on Sunday* published a similar story based on their reporters' visit in Foxconn's factories in Longhua (near Hong Kong) and Suzhou. The article also revealed the poor working conditions and low salaries of the workers. However, no reporters from *the Mail on Sunday* have faced Foxconn's legal ire.



Foxconn's headquarters in Shenzhen

CFP Photo

On August 17, Apple released a report on iPod manufacturing, saying that the supplier was in compliance with the majority of the areas audited but they did find violations to a code of conduct.

Shenzhen Intermediate People's Court has declined interviews. Staff from the media office of Guangdong High Court said that main executive level of Shenzhen Intermediate People's Court has reviewed the case and sees no problem with the legal procedures. Their only statement was to vow to resolve the case quickly due to the enormous public interest.

Zhang Juanjuan, legal consultant for *China Business News* said they would contest the lawsuit and do whatever necessary to support

their journalists.

In 2004, Foxconn also sued a Taiwanese journalist for NT\$300 million Taiwan dollars over a news report, but reached a settlement after strong protest by media workers from Taiwan and overseas. Foxconn gave no comment on the current case. Some commentators have suggested that Foxconn is using its corporate muscle as one of Taiwan's richest companies to intimidate journalists and deter future investigations by targeting the notoriously underpaid journalists themselves, rather than their periodical.

The two journalists are discussing their experience on their blog, which started on Sina.com Monday, and has had up to

300,000 visitors a day since its launch.

In Wang's blog, she revealed that two representatives from Foxconn had a meeting with her and Weng Bao in June. The representatives asked them to stop writing the series, but didn't deny the validity of their content. Both Wang and Weng say they are determined to fight the lawsuit.

Blogs visitors are divided about the case. The majority support the two journalists, calling for donations for the lawsuit, a boycott of iPod products, or condemning Foxconn. But others question whether *China Business News* is trying to affect judicial process through their media influence.

Post pinched for pulping

By Qiu Jiaoning

Some 10,000 mailed items sent from different cities in Hebei Province to addresses across the country have been stolen and sold to a waste recycling station in Beijing. National mail carrier China Post and Hebei Province Post Office set up a special team Tuesday to investigate the theft.

The stolen mail, estimated to be worth more than 100,000 yuan, was discovered by chance at a recycling station in Tongzhou District, during a routine inspection by a local police officer. A worker at the station said that a minibus driver had sold the mail to the station for 2,000 yuan.

Most of the stolen mail was printed items, sent out by 10 post office customers from Langfang, Yongqing, Sanhe and Bazhou in Hebei Province between August 18 and August 21.

A post office customer from Langfang, surnamed Wang, told journalists that her company sent 600 albums and 1,000 printed works to its customers. Staff at the company are now busy informing their customers of the incident and apologizing for the undelivered orders. Police say they found only 200 copies of the albums and are making efforts to locate the remainder.

Ma Xinyue, director of Langfang Post and Logistic Center, said that they delivered the recovered items again as soon as they were returned to the post office on Wednesday. A preliminary investigation revealed the mail was illegally sold by drivers on their way from Hebei to Beijing Railway Station.

Animal outcasts raise welfare awareness

By Chen Shasha

Animal welfare has been given an unlikely profile boost recently - from some of China's least photogenic furry friends. 'Differently-abled' pets in all shapes and sizes went under the hammer (at auction) to raise money for their fellow undesirables and show a new caring (if dog-eared) face of China's animal welfare, which had suffered recently in the wake of Yunnan's dog culls.

The auction was held in Shenyang, Liaoning province, and bidding for each invalided animal started at a buyer friendly one yuan.

A two-legged cat proved to be the bottom of the bargain barrel in this deepest, darkest basement of the pet bargain world. "It was sold for 200 yuan," said Lan Yilin,

Pets under the hammer - but this time, they're fighting for their rights

the manager of Shenyang Animal Rescue Center, and the organizer of the auction. "The buyer promised that she would take good care of the poor cat." According to Lan, all the buyers in the auction made such a promise, but just days later, some animals were sent back to the center. "Some people just felt pity for the handicapped pets when they saw them, but they didn't know the handicapped pets need more care and money than healthy ones," he said.

According to Lan, there are more than 1,000 animals in the center. They were mostly hand-

icapped or ill, and were abandoned before they came to the center. "When I started to build the center, I never expected there would be so many animals," Lan said. The center opened in 2001, and belongs to the Shenyang Wild Animal Protection Association. As with many NGOs in China, the center gets no money from the official association to which they belong. And as the center becomes more famous, more and more people send orphans of the animal world. "Sometimes, the fees for curing disabled or sick animals can be 8,000 yuan over

two days," Lan said. The center also struggles with a lack of staff. Lan said that they have just 100 voluntary workers at the center - or one to every 10 sick or disabled animals.

Lan sold his house and moved into the center last year to solve the cash crisis. He also set up a scheme which lets students and other citizens to adopt an animal and give some money every month. "But the expenses far outstrip the money collected," Lan said. Lu Di, a retired teacher at Renmin University and the founder of the China Animal Protection Center

says the same. According to the annual survey of the CAPC, the earnings of the center in 2005 were 600,000 yuan, but the expenses were 1,090,000 yuan. Wang Tao, the only full time staff member in the CAPC said the auction might be a good way to raise awareness and collect money for helping the abandoned animals.

However, He Yong, head of the press department of IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) opposed the auction. "It sacrificed the benefits of animals in some way," he said. In his opinion, it is better to take some measures in management, including chipping animals so their legal owners can be tracked, "and China should set up laws to protect the benefits of animals, in order to prevent them from being hurt and abandoned."

China says one-third of country hit by acid rain

Beijing, August 30 (Boston Herald) – One-third of China's vast landmass is suffering from acid rain caused by its rapid industrial growth, said officials quoted by the state media.

China's factories spewed out 25.5 million tons of sulfur dioxide – the chemical that causes acid rain – last year, 27 percent up from 2000, said Sheng Huaren, deputy chairman of the Standing Committee of parliament.

Sheng released a report that found pollution from factories and power plants was rising by 9 percent a year – an embarrassment for a government that promised this year to clean up its air. The report said sulphur dioxide emissions were double safe levels.

"Increased sulfur dioxide emissions meant that one-third of China's territory was affected by acid rain, posing a major threat to soil and food safety," Sheng said,

according to Xinhua.

Environmental protection has become a prominent issue in China following a string of industrial accidents that poisoned major rivers, forcing several cities to shut down their water systems.

Premier Wen Jiabao publicly criticized officials in April after the government revealed it failed to meet most of its targets over the past five years in environmental areas ranging from containing pollution to stopping the loss of farmland. Wen said officials would be held personally responsible for future environmental disasters.

Beijing plans to spend US\$175 billion on environmental protection over the next five years, according to Mao Rupai, chairman of the parliament's environmental committee.

The government pledged this year to cut air pollution emissions by 10 percent by 2010.



China's factories spewed out 25.5 million tons of sulfur dioxide last year.

CFP Photo



Photo by courtesy of the Rocky Mountain Ballet Theater

Montana dancers to perform at Beijing Olympics

Missoula, August 26 (AP) – A group of dancers from the Rocky Mountain Ballet Theater has been accepted to participate in the 2008 Summer Olympics, to be held in Beijing.

The group, which will consist of 12 to 15 of the best dancers from the local troupe, will perform at several cultural events at the Olympics, said co-director Charlene Campbell. They'll follow up those performances with a brief tour of China that will end with a visit to Montana's sister province of Guangxi.

"I've wanted to take the dancers to China for quite some time," Campbell said. "I hit on the idea of the Olympics, and it just went from there."

Campbell is quick to acknowledge that her idea wouldn't have gone far without the help of Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., who introduced Campbell to Wang Hongbo, director of the China Arts and Entertainment Group, a government-funded cultural exchange program. The invitation comes with a promise of room, board and transportation for the dancers during their three-week stay in China, courtesy of the China Arts and Entertainment Group.

That still leaves some major costs, including flights to and from China and production expenses. Campbell estimates she'll have to raise about US\$50,000 to cover those expenses.

Interview with the editor:

This report is from the Chinese government. We prefer to believe what the government officials say, rather than NGOs.

Pollution is not the focal point here, I think how to tackle it is more important. Should China follow the path taken by other industrialized countries, or should we pay attention to environmental protection and turn it into a profitable business?

It would be a fairly simple business, as most of the technologies are already available. What we need is money, ideas and action.

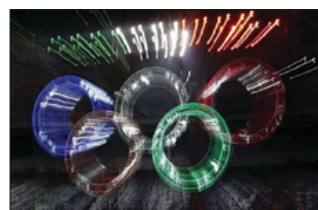
— Brent Jones, science & space editor, Boston Herald

Beijing 2008 says 'No corruption'

Beijing, August 26 (GamesBids.com) – Beijing 2008 organizers say they have taken action to ensure that preparations for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games are free of corruption.

Gu Yueren, director of the Audit and Supervision Department of Beijing 2008 said, "Auditing conducted by the National Audit Office of China has found no wrongdoing in our preparatory work." He added the office has also found 'no errors' with his department, which is responsible for internal auditing.

Gu said, "At the beginning we established a strict budget management system under which only the Finance Department had the right to appropriate funds. As the preparation goes on some departments



Beijing is preparing for the 2008 Olympic Games

AFP Photo

have been allowed to spend within their budgets."

He said, "We have drawn up management and supervision rules for the payments, and a special auditing group has been established to deal with this."

Meanwhile the organizing committee is applying bar codes

to batches of 150 types of vegetables that will be served during the Games, which it considers an effective way to track the origins of any food safety emergencies that may occur during the Games, said Zhang Baohai, a spe-

cialist with the municipal vegetable research center.

It is estimated that Beijing will need more than 5,000 tons of vegetables during the Games most of which will be supplied from regions around Beijing.

Interview with the editor:

Generally speaking, we're optimistic on the Beijing Olympic Games, though many negative reports are focusing on the environment, corruption, and the quality of the hosts.

Our optimism is based on the capability of your government and people, who have demonstrated your extreme quality at nearly every critical time.

Corruption doesn't only happen in China. Remember the corruption scandals before the Salt Lake Winter Olympic Games? It's more important to think how to prevent similar cases and present a successful Games.

— Robert Livingstone, chief editor, GamesBids.com



Beijing has more than 1,200 entertainment venues.

AFP Photo

Beijing, August 30 (PTI) – Owners of Beijing's 1,200 entertainment venues will be given a crash course to identify party drugs, city police said.

Police in Beijing launched an anti-drug training program for

Entertainment venues in Beijing to be drug free

120 owners and managers of entertainment venues in the city.

All the owners and managers of the entertainment venues in Beijing are required to take part in the program, director of the anti-drug department of Beijing Public Security Bureau, Chen Qiang said.

The move is to ensure the entertainment venues and all the public areas would be drug free, thus to create a good environment for a safe 2008 Olympic Games.

The police will help the owners and managers raise their

awareness of the bad effects of new drugs like methamphetamine, ecstasy and cocaine, and teach them how to recognize the new drugs.

Chen said more people are

taking new drugs, although they have little knowledge about their harm. Over 270 users of new drugs have been arrested between January and August this year.

The business of entertainment

venues would be suspended for three to six months if drugs were found there, police said.

Beijing has registered more than 20,000 drug users and the number is rising.

Interview with the reporter:

Drugs are a problem in every society and country throughout the world.

Sports and drugs conflict fundamentally: sports encourage better health and achievement; drugs damage your

health though they can give you a short burst of glory.

I'm personally impressed by the Chinese government's determination and actions in tackling drug smuggling and consumption.

Unfortunately, drug-taking is still popular, especially among young people, around the world. We still have a long way to go.

— Anil K. Joseph, PTI Beijing

Lenovo sinks teeth into "upper class sport"

By He Jianwei

Lenovo announced August 30 that the computer maker's top brand, ThinkPad will sponsor the 2006 China Open.

This is Lenovo's latest step in their strategy of sports marketing, after becoming global cooperation partner for the International Olympics Committee in 2004.

"Tennis is an elegant upper-class sport, and so is the brand orientation of ThinkPad," Chen Shaopeng, senior vice president of Lenovo and president of Lenovo Greater China said.

"The fans of tennis and the customers of the brand ThinkPad

share the same social identities, so we want to sponsor the 2006 China Open."

Lenovo will be a second-class sponsor, providing the China Open with products and cash. Dozens of laptops will be available for journalists in the media center, for athletes in their rest room, and for umpires in the court.

Lenovo and the China Open organizing committee exchanged gifts to celebrate the signing. Lenovo presented a ThinkPad Z61 designed especially for the Beijing Olympics, while the committee presented a tennis racket to Lenovo.



Zhang Yanping (second from left), chairman of Beijing Media, and Chen Shaopeng (third front left), senior vice president of Lenovo, at the signing ceremony.

Photo by Wei Tong

Sponsors are divided into three classes, with support ranging from US\$500,000 to US\$3.5 million.

World Bank logs largest greenhouse deal

New York, August 29 (Reuters) – The World Bank put together the largest greenhouse gas deal ever, where European and Asian companies and others will pay two Chinese chemical companies US\$1.02 billion to reduce output of gases believed to cause global warming.

In the deal, European and Asian companies bound by the UN's Kyoto Protocol to tackle climate change, will pay the Chinese chemical companies to reduce and destroy emissions of HFC23.

The deal will reduce emissions by about 19 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually, according to the World Bank.

Additional participants included entities in World Bank managed funds including the Danish Carbon Fund, the Italian Carbon Fund, Deutsche Bank, Mitsui & Co and two entities of Natsource LLC, which calls itself the world's largest greenhouse gas asset manager.

The deal was done under Kyoto's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which allows rich countries to meet some of their greenhouse gas reduction obligations under the Kyoto Protocol by investing in reductions in developing countries.

Up and away



Four new Airbus A380s on a trial flight over Toulouse, France, August 30. A380 is the largest ever civil aircraft with a loading capacity of 550 passengers.

AFP Photo

EU new tariffs on shoes from China, Vietnam

Brussels, August 30 (IRNA) – The European Commission agreed to impose import tariffs of 16.5 percent on shoes from China and 10 percent from Vietnam.

In April, EU trade commissioner Peter Mandelson had imposed temporary tariffs of 19.4 percent on shoes from China and 16.8 percent on Vietnam in order to protect European manufacturers from cheap shoe imports.

The anti-dumping duties will expire on October 6 and the new tariffs were agreed by the Commission on Wednesday after the summer holidays.

But the proposals are expected to be opposed by some EU member states such as Denmark, Germany, Sweden and the UK who argue that the duties harm free international trade.

However, Italy, Portugal and Spain, which have big shoe manufacturing sectors, are backing the proposal.

China takes to shopping netway

By Gan Tian

Comparative shopping search engines, which compare the prices of goods online so consumers can choose the best deal, are nothing new in the West. But now they're arriving in China, and begoo.com.cn, who are providing the first, are promising a 'new online shopping model'.

Begoo.com.cn has only recently arrived in China, but it is already ranked the top online shopping searching engine. "We have developed our technology for only half a year. But I believe in half a year's time we will make a profit," said Li Bilong, the president of Begoo. Ba Yi, another Begoo staff member, has been pleasantly surprised at how quickly the Chinese shoppers have accepted the new technology.

It can only be a matter of time before Begoo attracts competitors. In the west, the comparative search engine market is dominated by several players including shopping.com and bizrate.com.

China Life plans US\$2.6 bln listing

Shanghai, August 29 (Reuters) – China Life Insurance Co., the country's top life insurer, is planning a Shanghai stock listing worth up to US\$2.6 billion as Beijing encourages leading firms to sell shares at home.

China Life said it would issue up to 1.5 billion A-shares and the deal should be completed by the end of the year.

Coca-Cola boosts stake in China

Hong Kong, August 29 (UPI) – The Coca-Cola bought a controlling share of Kerry Beverages Ltd., a bottling joint venture with Hong Kong's Kerry Group.

KBL has majority ownership in the 11 joint ventures that make and distribute Coca-Cola products across nine provinces in China.

The transaction gives Coca-Cola a 89.5 percent stake. Coca-Cola also has agreed to buy the remaining 10.5 percent by the end of 2008.

Best Buy to open first China outlet

Shanghai, August 29 (AP) – Best Buy Co. is teaming up with Jiangsu Five Star Appliance Co., China's No. 4 appliance and consumer electronics retailer, to open a store in Shanghai by December.

Best Buy announced in May that it paid US\$180 million for a majority stake in Jiangsu Five Star, giving it an immediate presence in Asia's fastest growing market.

China's teens think green = gr8

By Qiu Jiaoning

An award ceremony was held to honor China's 10 'Little Pioneers for Environmental Protection'.

Nokia China, the China National Youth Palace Association and China Environmental Culture Promotion Association have chosen the winners from some 200,000 teens, who submitted their ideas on environmental protection via text message.

Nokia said this marks the first in a series of activities the company will introduce to promote environmental protection in China.

Google, eBay partner on ads

Washington, August 29 (AP) – Google Inc. and eBay Inc. announced a multi-year agreement to benefit both companies' collective communities of users, merchants and advertisers around the globe.

The agreement consists of two primary components involving text-based advertising and 'click-to-call' advertising functionality.

Chinese yuan futures debut on CME

Singapore, August 28 (Reuters) – Futures and options on the Chinese yuan made their debut on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) this week.

These are the first Asian currency derivatives to be listed on the CME, apart from Japanese yen contracts.

The CME said that yuan futures and options against the dollar, yen and euro would be traded 24 hours a day from Sunday afternoon in

the United States to Friday afternoon on its Globex electronic trading platform.

HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank are listed as market makers for the futures contracts.

The size of each futures contract will be one million yuan (\$125,400), the CME said. Daily settlement will be in dollars, yen or euros.

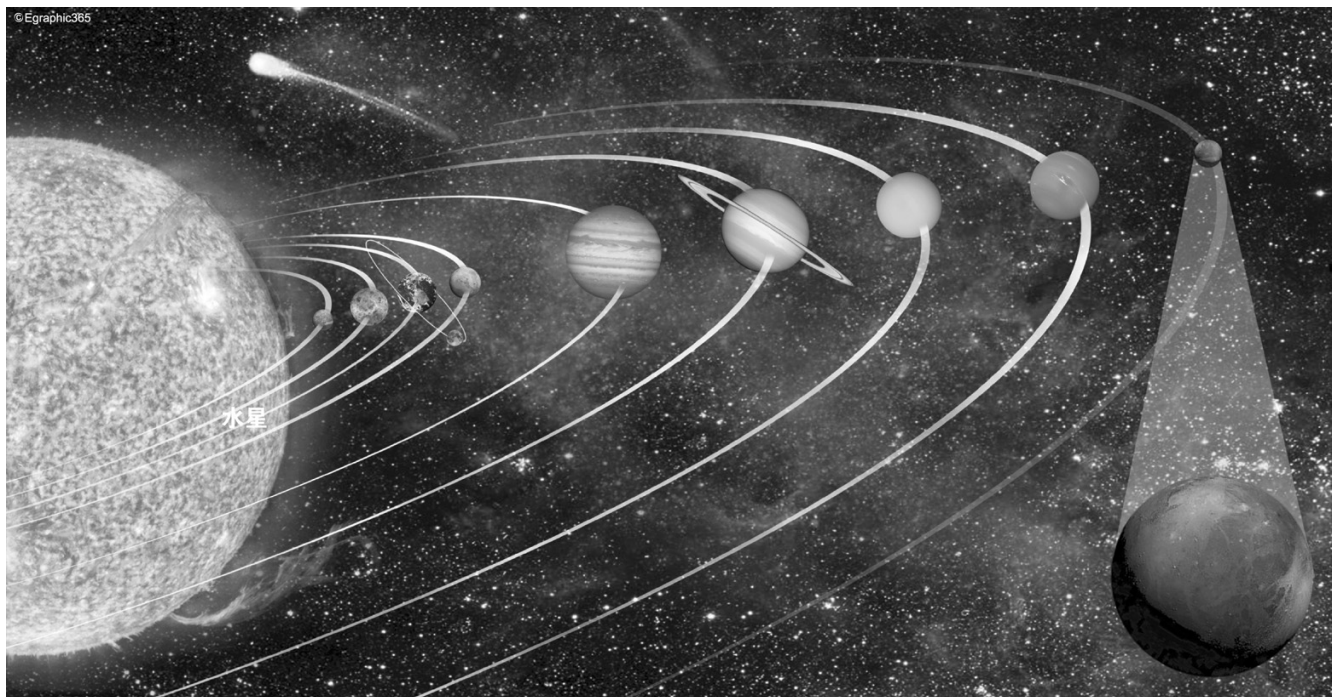
The yuan is not fully convertible on the capital account.

China revalued the currency

and moved it from a virtually pegged rate to the dollar to managing it in a tight band against a basket of currencies in July last year.

Gerrard Katz, regional head of currency trading for North Asia at Standard Chartered felt all types of investors could be attracted to the futures.

"The contract size is small so it could appeal to proprietary-style small traders."



The Solar System (from the left to right): Sun, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto.
CFP Photos



This illustration from Pluto's surface shows its moons rising.

Pluto, 1930-2006

Comments

By Patrick Cooper

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has voted to strip Pluto of its planetary status, the Associated Press reports. Pluto had been considered a planet since its discovery in 1930.

The IAU resolution defines Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune as 'classical planets.' Such a planet is "a celestial body that (a) is in orbit around the Sun, (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape, and (c) has cleared the neighborhood around its orbit."

Under the resolution, Pluto is now a 'dwarf planet.' Do you agree with the decision to demote it?

This sounds like some profound discovery that has finally paid off after all those years of research. Sigh, not to mention grad school.

This is like someone coming to the conclusion that French fries are not from France. No one cares, that's just what we call it.

— Blake

Names and definitions are always changing in science. When Ceres lost its status as a planet over 200 years ago, I'm sure there was a similar uproar, but what percent of us actually knew about Ceres before this announcement?

Also, looking closer at the planets we have them separated into groups that they don't typically discuss in science classes. We have the first four planets as Terrestrial (Earth-like, rocky) and the next four as Jovian (Jupi-

ter-like, gas giants), why not a new category called dwarf planets that includes Ceres, UB313, and Pluto? I personally hope Quaoar and Sedna join the list.

— JustMe

I hope the scientists didn't get any government grants in the form of taxes to fund their debate. It looks like the taxpayers disagree or don't care. What's next for the scientists tackling the great debate; Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

— JG

So Pluto is not a planet...How does this affect us here on our planet?

Perhaps it needs to leave us and go find another solar system to hang out in...maybe it will get more respect there!

— zonie

What is this going to do for astrology now that we lost a

planet that influences our lives? Can this be the reason that astrology has been so wrong in the past? It has been working on basis with the wrong number of planets. Or is it all just a joke of a science to begin with?

— Bob

Pluto's mass is only four percent of Mercury's and 20 percent of Earth's Moon's. It's just a big asteroid (excuse me, dwarf planet). I'm glad to see astronomers finally had the guts to correct themselves.

— Tommy

Isn't it funny so many of us are unwilling to change what we know based on new information? Just because we were taught something in school doesn't mean it can't change. Just imagine if Columbus hadn't challenged the idea that the world is flat!

— Balzignore

Study: Teacher's gender affects learning

The Associated Press

"Boys learn more from men and girls learn more from women. That's the upshot of a provocative study by Thomas Dee, an associate professor of economics at Swarthmore College and visiting scholar at Stanford University," Ben Feller from AP reports.

Dee says his research supports his point that gender matters when it comes to learning. Specifically, as he describes it, having a teacher of the opposite sex hurts a student's academic progress. And he hopes his work will spur more research into gender's effect and what to do about it.

His study comes as the proportion of male teachers is at its lowest level in 40 years. Roughly 80 percent of teachers in US public schools are women.

The study is based on a nationally representative survey of nearly 25,000 eighth-graders that was conducted by the Educa-

tion Department in 1988. Though dated, the survey is the most comprehensive look at students in middle school, when gender gaps emerge, Dee said.

Dee found that having a female teacher instead of a male teacher raised the achievement of girls and lowered that of boys in

science, social studies and English. Looked at the other way, when a man led the class, boys did better and girls did worse.

The study found switching up teachers actually could narrow achievement gaps between boys and girls, but one gender would gain at the expense of the other.

Comments

Boys are receiving a poor start. It just makes me wonder, if this study is valid and 98 percent of pre-school, kindergarten, first and even second grade teachers are women, how does this impact boys in receiving a strong educational foundation?

— cidennett

My observation is that both boys and girls respond really well - and maybe even better - to male teachers. I believe first and foremost, that's because men are exotic and different for kids who

up to that point have had nearly 100 percent female authority figures in their little lives.

More male teachers in elementary schools would be a huge benefit to children of both sexes and to the profession itself.

— katliamom

The data is nearly 20 years old. This is an entirely different generation of students than the ones in school today.

This is one more example of ridiculous pseudo-science that is trying to nail down the specifics

of the human experience.

— mb0055

I don't think it's a question of delivery, but one of perception. Boys tend to challenge their mothers more than their fathers, and girls tend to relate to their mothers more than their fathers. These biases carry over to the classroom's 'in loco parentis' model.

The teachers are no doubt delivering the same material in the same way. It's the kids' perceptions and the dynamics of

their home lives that account for the disparity.

Just one teacher's opinion.

— msc

This may explain gender achievement gap. In the past 20-plus years, girls have begun to outperform boys in schools and in college graduation. 60 percent of college graduates are girls.

— your a maricon

Over 40 years ago, I did poorly with female teachers, in high school. My college experi-

ence with male professors was the exact reverse. I blossomed as a student.

I went from a student that almost flunked out high school, to graduate with honors at a small university with an all male faculty.

— mus42tang

Not so. Female, spent 20 years in classes. I avoid female teachers - they put too much irrelevant talk in teaching.

— esornew2000

(By Jiang Xubo)

Attempting the impossible

By Tom Mackenzie

Two South Africans are "attempting the impossible" - by trying to run the entire length of the Great Wall in just five months.

Celebrity chef David Grier and ecologist and youth developer Braam Malherbe, from Cape Town, set off on the epic 5,000km run from Jiayuguan in the Gobi desert last Friday.

Along the way they will travel through desert, mountains and forest, crossing nine regions until they arrive at Shanhaiguan, where the ramparts of the Great Wall meet the waters of the Yellow Sea. If the pair complete the run it will go down in history as a world first. They also hope to raise around 2.5 million yuan for children's charity Smile South Africa.

"The cause is great and the

reaction we've been getting from people along the wall has been fantastic and that's what keeps us motivated," said Braam, speaking to *Beijing Today* as he and David jogged their last kilometer on Tuesday. "We went past a village today and everyone came out to watch. We stopped to say hello and take a few photos and I had this beautiful little girl sitting on my lap and it's moments like that that really inspire me."

The Great Wall Challenge has taken over three years to plan. Braam and David have made repeat visits to China to map out their route and assess the terrain. The fitness fanatics, who have both competed in dozens of marathons and races over the years, have also spent months in training, preparing their bodies for a physical onslaught of 30km daily



David Grier and Braam Malherbe at the start of their 5,000km Great Wall run.

runs along the Great Wall for five months solid with just one rest day in every seven.

"It's going to be incredibly tough. There are going to be moments of real pain but we feel totally prepared," said Braam. "We've done the training, had the

health checks and are determined to complete the challenge."

The money that Braam and David raise will go towards supporting 'Operation Smile South Africa', a kids charity dedicated to helping children from disadvantaged communities born with cleft

palates and hair lips. It will pay for surgery for around 65 children living with the deformities.

"David and I are both parents and we're lucky enough to have healthy kids but there are thousands of children living out there who aren't so lucky," said Braam. "We want to give something back and this charity is a fantastic way to do that."

They also want to teach kids a lesson.

"We want to show children that if you put your mind to something, anything is possible. We were told that running the Great Wall would be impossible. Rubbish."

To find out more about the Great Wall Challenge, to keep track of Braam and David's progress or to make a donation, go to www.thechallenge.tv.

US well in as sorry Kiwis take thrashing



The women's Softball World Championship-America beat New Zealand 15:0 on Thursday.

CFP Photo

Your chance to dance with tango star

By Huang Daohen

Argentinean tango star Pablo Veron will jet to Beijing this month to take part in a party to celebrate the raunchy dance.

The dancer, who found fame in the movies *The Tango Lesson* and *TanGhost*, will be special guest at Tango Beijing's party, part of the International Drama Festival 2006. Organizers are calling on tango lovers across the capital to take part.

The event will include performances by young people as well as the chance to tango face to face with hot hips Pablo Veron himself. For more information email dramafestival@163.com.

The 2nd International Drama Festival is held in memory of the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. The year 2006 will mark the 100th anniversary of his death. Throughout the year, a wide range of events will be arranged both in Norway and abroad.

Double the fun at festival for twins

By Jackie Zhang

Visitors to Honglingjin Park next month might think they are seeing double - the place will be playing host to Beijing's third Twins Cultural Festival.

The annual event, which runs from the second to the sixth of October, is organized especially for the city's twins.

There will be specially designed games for twins as well as talent shows and competitions. Last year more than 600 pairs of twins flocked to the event.

For more information, or to sign up, call organizers on 85833562, 85817037 or 85810901. Lines are open between 8am to 5pm everyday and will close on September 15.

Peter Mayle is Sina's latest blogger - kind of

By Annie Wei

Sina.com announced this week that author Peter Mayle will write a celebrity's blog for the popular net portal.

Peter Mayle is best known for his book *A Year in Provence*, an international bestseller in 1990. The first three days after its launch saw his Sina blog attract more than 70,000 visits.

Many visitors showed their fondness about Mayle's works. Some said they hoped to make friends with Mayle, and some left confused comments; they were especially impressed by Mayle's excellent Chinese.

But is Peter Mayle really writing the blog? There seems to be nothing personal from the man and many suspect the

site is a book promotion from a Chinese publishing house. Shouldn't a blog be something personal, or at least, the author himself should commit to it in a certain way?

Xu Yi, of Sina.com, said the blog was not written by Mayle himself, but was a posting of his articles that readers could not get from the other Chinese web-

sites or bookstores. The connection between Sina.com and Mayle was through his agent in China.

Xu said the main reason Sina had called it a blog by Mayle was the influence the author has among Chinese readers, especially people who love traveling and bourgeois pursuits. They expected this to benefit Sina.com's blog channel.

Cheers for Southeast Asian culture

By Jackie Zhang

Southeast Asian culture was the phrase on everyone's lips as the 8th Asia Arts Festival opened with a bang last night. The opening ceremony was at Beijing Exhibition Theater.

The festival is broken into four areas: the opening ceremony and artistic performances, the

first Asian arts museum curator forum, an artistic exhibition of Southeast Asian countries, and the second web conference on Southeast Asian culture.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of China's relationship with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the theme of the festival has this rela-

tionship at its core. Running until next Wednesday, you can catch different events showcasing the people, the culture and the abundant cultural heritage of Southeast Asian countries.

Artists from Brunei, Laos, Burma, and Thailand will be dancing and singing and demonstrating their traditional instru-

mental music. The Southeast Asian countries culture exhibition will feature wood-carvings, porcelains, and embroideries representing different culture of different countries. Curators from different art museums will talk about their experiences and research work and establish regional cooperation.

NGOs meet to ponder threats to wild tiger

By Chen Shasha

Six international conservation NGOs, all with long-term China experience, gathered on August 31 to discuss the threats facing the country's dwindling population of wild tigers and the difficulties of protecting them, in the light of a new *Regulation for Import and Export of Endangered Species of Wildlife*, which comes into force today (September 1).

It's the first time that IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare), WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature), CI (Conservation International), WCS (The Wildlife Conservation Society) and Traffic (Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce) have all met to discuss a problem that has troubled government, NGOs and academics in

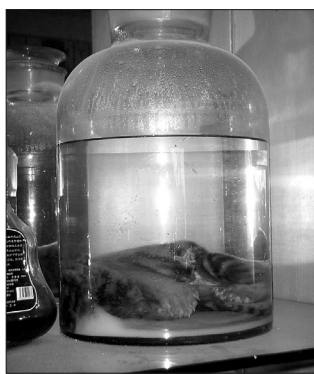
China and abroad.

Fifty left

He Yong from IFAW said there are less than 50 wild tigers left in China, and the number is decreasing every year.

According to Xie Yan of WCS, the wild tigers faced a number of threats in China. Although there are some tiger breeding centers, this is not a good way to conserve the species. "Tigers in breeding centers have too much human contact and do not adapt to life in the wild if released. They tend to seek out humans and can become dangerous," said Xie.

Conservationists say the biggest problem in protecting the species is the threat from commercial trading. Although China banned all domestic trade in tiger parts and derivatives in 1993, tiger



A tiger foot preserved in wine in a Guangxi based preservation center. Photo provided by IFAW

bones, fur and organs are still sold as they are believed to have medicinal value.

Bone wine

A new survey by IFAW said

one of the largest breeding centers in Guangxi province sold wine made of tiger bones for nearly three years. The annual income from selling the wine was in the hundreds of millions of yuan. "We found bones from more than 400 tigers in the jars of wine in the center," said He Yong.

Open letter

The organizations at the conference sent an open letter to China's Premier Wen Jiabao. It reads, "We hope that China, in the spirit of its new law implementing CITES and the upcoming 2008 Green Olympics, will reiterate its commitment to the 1993 ban on trade in all tiger derivatives from all sources, and thereby continue to play a responsible leadership role in protecting the world's few wild remaining tigers".



International Design Exhibition opens in Beijing

By Gan Tian

The International Design Exhibition, held by the National Art Museum of China, opened on Tuesday.

Twenty-seven international designers

are involved in the exhibition, which has a green Olympics as its theme. There are 133 pieces of art in the show, demonstrating the global trend of art designing.

At the invitation of the National Art

Museum of China, 25 designers will have their posters displayed at the Olympic Games.

The exhibition will last until September 10.

A one woman campaign to stamp out poverty

By Jackie Zhang

German TV journalist Gisela Mahlmann has helped hundreds of poverty-stricken children living across China in the last 10 years.

She has donated nearly 1.5 million yuan to education and housing projects for more than 1,300 children.

In Zeku, Qinghai Province, where she has helped out 500 children, villagers hail her as a God.

Gisela Mahlmann lived in China for six years with her family when she worked as China correspondent for a German TV station. Her determination to help those children less fortunate than her own was fostered in 1996 as she worked on a TV-documentary about the 'forgotten face of China'. She tried to get a shooting permit in one of the poverty stricken areas. "I didn't get the permit but then I remembered my four Chinese kids," she said. "In 1990, a good friend of mine

had done research work for Project Hope, a charity for Chinese school drop-outs. My family decided to pay the school fees for four kids in four different provinces. The children live in one of the forgotten areas. I decided to visit one of the children," said Li Dianxin, at her home in Zhuanbu, Yinan district in Shandong Province.

There, Mahlmann met many more families who could not afford to send their kids to school. Some were single-parent families and others had medical bills to pay for sick family members.

Before traveling to the region Mahlmann collected donations from friends because she did not want to go and film poverty without giving any help. "I helped out about 12 families there," she said. "And after my documentary was shown on German TV many people wrote to me asking how they could also help."

That summer Mahlmann went to Qinghai, after hearing that the nomads there had little access to education. She visited the first tent school donated by UNESCO. "I was convinced that tent schools were the right answer to the education problem there because sending their children to boarding schools goes against the nomads' way of life," said Mahlmann. After visiting the nomads she decided to try to raise enough money to fund another tent school.

In November 1996, Mahlmann and 14 friends founded the Hope Baden-Baden foundation in Germany. "My only purpose was to inform others about the need for education help and to raise as much money for projects in China as possible," she said.

The foundation raised awareness of the issues in China through lectures and talks. And it was not long before they had raised enough

money to make a real difference to hundreds of lives back in China.

To date the foundation has supported 680 children in Shandong and around 500 children in Qinghai. It has also funded the building of six tent schools and four brick-built schools in Zeku, Qinghai. Several children helped out during the foundation's early days have finished university and have returned home to work. Some work as nurses, bank accountants, and some work as computer technicians and vets.

"I think Gisela has been driven by her love and passion of China and the Chinese people," said Zhou Ye, who used to work as Mahlmann's translator. "Gisela grew up in hardship so when she saw these poor children in China she understood their suffering."

"I get insights into the lives of many people and of the development of China," said Mahlmann.

Beijing International music festival unveils schedule

By Han Manman

With the opening of the Ninth Beijing International Music Festival on October 2, next month is a fantastic season for Beijing's classical concertgoers.

The Beijing Music Festival is one of the grandest and most significant annual cultural events in the world, attracting more than 1,000 musicians from across the globe. The Festival offers a wide variety of styles of music to suit all tastes, and the audience can enjoy operas, symphonic and chamber music concerts, musicals, and even classical jazz performances.

On Tuesday, organizers released the schedule for the festival that includes performances by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Italy's Riccardo Muti and the China Philharmonic orchestra.

Because of the Year of Russia in China and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Shostakovich Song Recital, the composer's most famous piece, *The Lady Macbeth*, will be performed by the Mariinsky Orchestra at the festival's grand opening. *The Nose*, one of the young Shostakovich's greatest masterpieces, will also be performed for the first time in China.

The Year of Italy in China will bring the star Riccardo Muti to perform in Beijing alongside the China Philharmonic orchestra.

One of the festival highlights will be the BBC Symphony Orchestra, which is one of the UK's leading orchestras.

The National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain will perform a free concert for children called *Mozart's Magnificent Voyage*.

For a greener Beijing

By Jackie Zhang

The First Beijing International Environmental Protection Event for a Greener Beijing will be held on September 16 in Fragrant Hills Park in west Beijing.

The event is being organized to promote the Clean Up the World Day, sponsored by the Beijing Municipal Government Foreign Affairs Office.

Expats are invited to take part in the event together with local volunteers and ambassadors from the Spanish, French, Italian and Egyptian embassies in Beijing.

During the event, participants will decorate a stage with recycled products and make handcrafts using recycled materials. The handcrafts will be auctioned off and all the income will be donated to the Beijing Environmental Protection Foundation.

Anyone interested in taking part in the 'green day' should contact the organizers on 63390553 or 63390863.

After a two-month summer holiday, schools will re-open this month. A large number of foreign students will come to Beijing to study. To help those new-comers, the Exit and Entry Administration

Division has teamed up with *Beijing Today* to publish a four-page supplement (from Page 11 to 14) for new foreign students, with information on everything from Chinese laws to how to make friends!

Chinese laws that you should know

The Exit and Entry Administration Division is one of the governing bodies of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau (PSB). Their responsibilities include everything from issuing visas and residence permits to managing foreigners' daily issues, investigating cases concerning foreigners and issuing exit-entry certificate to Chinese citizens. Below, we list the Exit and Entry Administration Division rules and regulations that foreign students should know.



CFP Photos

Entry and Exit laws for foreigners

Important articles from Rules Governing The Implementation Of The Laws On Entry And Exit Of Foreigners:

1 Article No. 16 states that, foreigners who hold D, Z, X, or J-1 visas should apply for a Residence Permit within 30 days of entry. (Since November 22, 2005, foreigners' resident permits will be stuck on his/her passport.)

2 Article No. 20 states that, any foreigner in China should extend the visa before the expiration date if needed. If suffering from a mental disorder, leprosy,

AIDS, venereal disease, contagious tuberculosis or other infectious diseases, he or she will be ordered to advance the date of exit from China.

3 Article No. 21 states that, any changes in the information about Residence Permit should be registered in the visa section within 10 days. They include names, nationalities, job titles, companies, and address and passport number.

4 Article No. 30 states that, any foreigner who lodges at the home of a Chinese resident

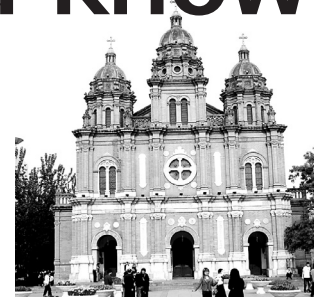
should undertake accommodation registration procedures within 24 hours at the local police station. (Ask the house owner or people who are in charge of daily issues of the compound for the address of the local PSB office.)

5 Article No. 25 states that, your passport should be carried with you for possible examination. PSB officers can give a warning to foreigners or fine them if they refuse to cooperate. Ultimately, he or she may be asked to leave the country.

6 According to article No. 40

and 47, any foreigner who comes into China illegally or overstays their visa, or forges, alters, misuses their transfer visa or certificate will face a warning, fine or even detention by the PSB. Ultimately, he or she may be asked to leave the country.

7 Article No. 47 states that, any foreigners who take part in illegal employment without permission from the Ministry of Labor and Personnel, will be asked to stop working and fined up to 1,000 yuan. Ultimately, he or she may be asked to leave the country.



Religion

No establishment of any religious organization or administrative organ, the recruitment of new followers or missionary work among Chinese citizens, is allowed.

Christian churches:

Beijing Christian Chongwenmen Church: Chongwenmen, Chongwen District

Mosques:

Dongsi Mosque: No.13 Dongsinandajie, Dongcheng District

Niujie Mosque: Niujiedajie, Xuanwu District

Catholic churches:

Catholic Xuanwumen Church (South Church): No.141 Qianmenxidajie,

Catholic Xishiku Church (North Church): Xishiku, Xi'anmennei,

Catholic Wangfujing Church (East Church): Wangfujingdajie East, Dongcheng District

Xizhimen Catholic Church: No.130 Xizhimenneidajie, Xicheng District

Dongjiaominxiang Catholic Church: No.13 Dongjiaominxiangjia, Dongcheng District

Taoist Temple:

Lvzugong: No.13 and 15 Beishunchengjie, Fuxingmennei, Xicheng District

Baiyunguan: Baiyunguanjie, Xibianmenwai, Xicheng District

Buddhist Temples:

Lama Temple: No.12 Yonghegongdajie, Dongcheng District

Beijing Fayuan Temple: Jiaozi hutong, Xuanwumenwai, Xuanwu District

Beijing Tongjiao Temple: No.19 Zhenxian hutong, Dongzhimenneibeixiaojie, Dongcheng District

Beijing Guanghua Temple: No.31 Ouer hutong, Houhai, Xicheng District

If you find a place with religious activities, make sure they are the legal before joining.

The rules on parades and demonstrations

If foreign students want to organize a parade or demonstration, they should submit a written application to the General Division of Security of Beijing Public Security Bureau five days in advance.

The General Division of Security is located at Gongdelin Deshengmenwai Street Xicheng District.

Tying the knot

Prepare the required documents, which include your passport and 'no spouse certificates' from both parties. Chinese embassies abroad or consulates should authenticate related documents issued by institutions abroad.

Marriage Registration Office, Bureau of Civil Affairs of Beijing Municipality

1st Fl., No. 8 Huayanli, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100029

Tel: 6202-8454

Working hours:

09:00-11:30; 13:30-17:00

Monday-Friday

(It's more practical to call them to confirm all the documents required in advanced)

English-language documents must be translated into Chinese. You have to go to the appointed translation agencies for that as well:

Beijing Notary Public Office

206 Jixiangli Chaowaidajie, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Tel: 6553 8989;

6553 8988

Working hours:

08:30-11:30; 13:30-16:30

China Translation and Publication Corp.

6th Floor, Wuhua Complex, A4 Chegongzhuang Dajie, Beijing

Tel: 68002558



Motorbike rules

If foreign students want to purchase motorbikes in Beijing, they should be aware of the relevant laws. As Beijing's authorities do not plan to develop the city into a motorbike city, Beijing

Traffic Management Bureau will not issue new licenses for new motorbikes.

According to Beijing's traffic regulations, only motorbikes with Jing A licenses can be driven

within the third ring road. Motorbikes with Jing B licenses can only be driven outside the fourth ring road. No motorbikes are allowed on Chang'an Avenue.

As well as having a license, motorbikes must also be registered at the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau.

In July this year, Beijing's traffic police impounded more than 40 illegal motorbikes. According to the Exit and Entry Administration Division, number of illegal motorbikes involved in accidents has increased year on year. They have announced that foreign students found driving illegal motorbikes will be asked to leave the country.

Beijing Traffic Management Bureau

Motor vehicle administration department

18 Nansihuan (South 4th ring road) Donglu, Chaoyang District

8762-5150

For more information, call

8762 5123 or 8762 5155

Applying for a driver's license

An international drivers' license is not accepted in China. If you want to drive in China, you need to apply for a Chinese driving license. (Notes: In China, drivers are meant to drive on the right-hand side of the road)

You will need the following documents:

An application form

Your passport

A Physical Exam Certificate

An original driving license and Chinese transcript

Four one-inch photos with white backgrounds

A document indicating that you have passed China's road test

Owning a dog

If you own a dog, you have to get it registered at the local police station. You need the following:

1 Your passport or residents' permit

2 Two photos (two or one inches) of the dog

3 A Registration Form for Raising a Dog (which you can get from your local police station).

4 Initial registration of the dog is 1,000 yuan, with an annual 200-yuan renewal fee.

5 A valid quarantine certificate from Beijing Animal Hospital (tel: 64970591)

6 You should give one copy of the registration form to the real estate management office or community committee

Note: Large dogs are banned within the third ring road. Contact your local police station to find out more.

(By Wei Ying)

By Huang Daohen / He Jianwei / Gan Tian

How to find a home

If you are a newcomer to Beijing, you may find it difficult to find a house. You could go with the big international names, like CB Richard Ellis, Jones Lang LaSalle and 21 Centuries. They all have residential divisions in China. However, their selection is usually on the more expensive side. Local brokers have an advantage in offering a wider selection of apartments. They are especially useful for finding highly comfortable, but reasonably priced apartments.

Step 1: Choose a local broker

This is the most important part of your search. Real estate agencies are everywhere in Beijing. Though they all have street-front offices with windows covered in unit ads, their professionalism can vary greatly. You must remember that a broker is not your friend. He would like everyone to find an apartment as quickly as possible and pay as much as possible.

Step 2: List your requirements

Your broker will ask you for your living requirements to help you find places you'll deem suitable. Take time to consider what you're looking for in an apartment. Consider-

ations like location, length of contract, layout, furnishings, facilities, Internet access etc.

Step 3: Make a decision

Once you find an apartment you like, ask yourself whether it's really the one you want to live in. You should have a rough price in mind. Another question: what else can you rent for the same amount?

Step 4: Negotiate a final price

If you have decided on an apartment, your broker will arrange a three party negotiation (you, the broker and the landlord) to work out the payment details. Remember to negotiate on the final price. Usually you'll be able to bargain down a little from the price given.

Step 5: Sign the rental agreement

After negotiations are completed, your broker will prepare a rental agreement including all the negotiated details. It should be in English and Chinese.

Step 6: Follow-up service

If any problems arise between you and your landlord during the term that you cannot solve, your broker should help you. Feel free to give them a call.



Making a phone call

There are a number of ways you can make a call in Beijing:

1. Mobile phone and sim card

If you are studying in Beijing or want to travel to other parts of China, it is probably worth bringing an inexpensive mobile phone with you because they can easily get lost or stolen. When in Beijing, you can buy a pay-as-you-go sim card at any branch of China Mobile. As well as having a large choice of different cards, you will also be able to select numbers from its list. The price varies according to how "lucky" the number is - rule of thumb, fours equal cheap, eights equal pricey.

2. Phone card

In Beijing, you can find lots of phone cards, such as IC, IP and 201 cards. You can also buy an international card or a local phone card. They are mostly in the value of 10 Yuan, 20

Yuan, 50 Yuan or 100 Yuan. Many hotels sell the cards or they can be purchased from newspaper kiosks in the street. You can also find the cards on sale in China Mobile.

3. Make a phone call 'in the street'

Many locals make their phone calls by using phones provided at street kiosks across the city. You can make local or international calls using these phones. There is a facility attached to the phone which times your call. You pay according to the amount of time you have been on the phone. The prices are usually reasonable.

4. China Post

You can make phone calls at any China Post office. You will usually have to pay a deposit of 100 Yuan. Your call is timed so when you finish the charge will be deducted from the 100 yuan and the rest of your deposit will be returned with a receipt.

Seeing a doctor

There should be at least one doctor on every university campus. If they cannot help, go to the following hospitals in Beijing.

Peking University School of Stomatology: No.22 Zhongguancunnandajie, Haidian District (6217 3404)

Peking University Third Hospital (Beiyisanyuan): No.49 Huayuanbeilu, Haidian District (6201 7691)

Haidian Hospital: No.29 Zhongguancundajie, Haidian District (8261 9999)

Beijing Friendship Hospital: No.95 Yong'anlu Xuanwu District (6301 4411)

International Medical Center in Beijing: No.50 Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang District (6465 1561)

Bayley & Jackson Beijing Medical Center: No.7 Ritandonglu, Chaoyang District (8562 3493)

China-Japan Friendship Hospital: No.2 Yinghuadonglu, Hepingli, Chaoyang District (6422 2949)

Beijing United Family Hospital and Clinics: No.2 Jiangtailu, Chaoyang District (8532 1221)

Peking Union Medical College Hospital: No.1 Shuifuyuan, Dongcheng District (6529 6114)

Beijing SOS International, Ltd.: No.1 Xingfucunbeijie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang District (6462 9112)

Beijing Tongren Hospital: No.1 Dongji-aominxiang, Dongcheng District (5826 9911)

Beijing Stomatological Hospital: No.4 Heaven Temple Xili, Chongwen District (6709 9114)

Living in B



Surfing the Internet in Beijing has never been easier

CFP Photos

Surfing the net

Surfing the Internet in Beijing is not an adventure any more, as Internet cafes can be easily found on the streets of Beijing, especially those surrounding the universities. If you come to Beijing by yourself and want to chat with family or friends via the Internet, there are plenty of venues to choose from.

Beijing Telecom also debuts various Internet access services if you want to speed up Internet surfing in your own home.

1. ADSL

ADSL, short for asymmetric digital subscriber line, allows users to download information from the Internet at a speed of up to 500kbs/sec.

The service costs a one-time fee of 200 yuan (US\$25) to install an ADSL modem. ADSL will charge different monthly rentals under a three-tier regime. The most expensive rental package is 200 yuan (US\$25) a month for 200 hours online.

2. Narrowband Internet Access

Narrowband Internet gives you access to

CHINA169 by dialing a designated number (such as 16900) through a local telephone network (including N-ISDN) of China Netcom. Access modes of this service include caller-pays dial-up access, registered subscriber dial-up access and prepaid card dial-up access. Different cards are available in Beijing Telecom branches and newspaper kiosks.

3. Internet Private Line Access

This gives users access to China Netcom broadband Internet (CHINA169) through DDN, FR/ATM or a digital subscriber line and access to a fixed Internet IP address. This service is a bit more expensive and is suitable for those who require high speed Internet access at home.

For more details, call China Network Communications Group Corporation

Where: Block C, 156, Fuxingmennei Street, Beijing, 100031, China

Tel: +86-10-66169571

Website:

<http://www.chinanetcom.com.cn>

Beijing

Getting a job



According to China's laws and regulations, foreigners must have a work visa if they want to work part-time or full-time in China.

If you need a one year work visa, you should prepare the following documents: your passport, your resume or CV, a registration form of temporary residence, health certificate, qualification document, labor contract and your employer's business license.

If you want to postpone your work visa, you will need your passport, work permit, available work visa, residents' permit, labor contract and business license.

There are many agencies in the city that help people obtain visas. For details, see the city's listing magazines.

Transportation

You have three choices for your transportation in Beijing. The first choice is the **subway**, a quick and convenient mode of transport. At present Beijing has four main lines: Line 1, Line 2, Line 13, and the Batong Line.

Line 1 is from Pingguoyuan to Sihui East with the first train leaving at 5:10 am and the last train leaving at 10:55 pm. From Sihui East to Pingguoyuan, the first train leaves at 5:05 am and the last train leaves at 11:15 pm.

Line 2 is also called the Loop Line as it is built under the second ring road.

Jiangumen and Fuxingmen are the two interchange stations for the Loop Line and Line 1. A three-yuan ticket will get you to every station on Line 1 and the Loop Line.

If you travel on Line 13, a ticket will set you back just three yuan. If you want to change onto Line 1 or Line 2, you will need to buy a five-yuan ticket. Xizhimen station and Dongzhimen station on Line 2 are the interchange stations for Line 13.

The Batong line is an extension line to the east of Line 1. Any journey on the Batong line will set you back just two yuan. If you need to change onto Line 1 or the Loop Line, you will need to buy a 4-yuan ticket.

The second choice is to travel by **taxi**. Any journey up to three kilometers will cost 10 yuan with two yuan per kilometer being added after that distance. If you get stuck in traffic the meter will continue to add two yuan every five minutes.

Most cabbies in Beijing are pretty honest but if you do feel like you may have been taken for a ride, so to speak, jot down the number of the taxi and ask for the receipt when you pay. If you have any complaints, call the Taxi Management Department on 68351150 or the Public Transportation Section of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau on 64011327.

Traveling by **bus** is the third option. Beijing's buses are roughly divided into two categories: the air-conditioned buses and the non-air-conditioned buses. The air-conditioned buses charge two yuan when you get on while the non-air-conditioned charge one yuan. The cost will vary depending on far you travel.

Exchange

A foreigner can exchange foreign currency at the Bank of China for RMB. Foreign money can be exchanged in China through traveler's checks and currency can also be converted at banks and hotels. Credit cards can also be used.

Case study

Zhang Weijun met two Libyan tourists in front of the Kempinski Hotel Lufthansa Center in February this year. The two Libyans took out a piece of black paper and then dipped it into a bottle of water. Suddenly the paper turned into US dollars. The men claimed the former Libyan president had left the money in the Beijing office of the United Nations in this way as it would be convenient for him to take it away. In order to get a share of the money Zhang gave the Libyans 3,000 Yuan. It was only later that the gullible Zhang realized he had been cheated.

Tips on how to change money

1. Currency Conversion

Money exchange facilities are available at major airports, hotels, and department stores. The US dollar, British pound, Euro, Japanese yen, Austra-

lian dollar, Austrian schilling, Canadian dollar, HK dollar, Swiss franc, Danish Krone, Singapore dollar, Malaysian ringgit, Macao dollar, Finnish markka, and Taiwan dollar can all be exchanged. Exchange rates fluctuate in line with international financial market conditions and are published daily by the State Exchange Control Administration.

Keep your currency exchange receipts, because you will need to show them when you change RMB back to your own currency at the end of your study time in China. Currency rather than credit cards is essential in remote areas, and you should ensure that you carry sufficient RMB and travelers' checks to cover your requirements.

2. Credit Cards

At present, the following credit cards are accepted in China: Master Card, Federal Card, Visa, American Express, JCB and Diners Card. Holders can draw cash from the Bank of China and pay for purchases at exchange centers of the Bank of China, appointed shops, hotels and restaurants.

3. About RMB

Chinese currency is called Renminbi

(people's money), often abbreviated to RMB. Issued by the People's Bank of China, it is the sole legal tender for both Chinese nationals and foreign tourists. The unit of Renminbi is yuan and the smaller, jiao and fen. The conversion among the three is: 1 yuan = 10 jiao = 100 fen. Chinese people normally refer to Yuan as Kuai, Jiao as Mao. RMB is issued both in notes and coins. The denominations of paper notes include 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 yuan; 5, 2 and 1 jiao; and 5, 2 and 1 fen. The denominations of coins are 1 yuan; 5, 2 and 1 jiao; and 5, 2 and 1 fen.

4. Never, ever go to individuals to exchange money. You might get robbed, given fake money or worse.

People's Bank of China:

No.32, Chengfang Street, Xicheng District

Tel: 66194114

Main branches of Bank of China

No.8 Yabaolu Road, Chaoyang District, 65199988

No.1 Dongchang'anjie, Dongcheng District, 85186106

No.17 Qinghuadonglu, Haidian District, 82284639

Making friends

Most foreigners make Chinese friends when they are in Beijing. Make sure you abide by Chinese laws, customs and morals. And use your commonsense to avoid being deceived.

Case study

In April, a Canadian man called Pilon Andre called the security guards at the Jingrui Hotel saying that two Chinese ladies had tricked him. He had met the



ladies in a bar at Sanlitun and brought them back to his hotel to have sex with them. He felt 'giddy' when he kissed one of the ladies and ended up passing out. When he woke up, he discovered that he had been robbed.

You should also beware of foreign strangers. With China's opening up, foreign con artists have grown in numbers.

Shopping

Case study

Aaron Lairose, a 25-year-old American, was teaching English at Tsinghua University. He went to Likelong Supermarket in Shuang'an Shopping Mall on September 25, 2004. Carelessly leaving his bag in the shopping cart, he went to pay for his goods. The bag, containing US\$200 in cash, his passport, and a pair of black diamonds, was stolen.

Tips

1. Fake designer clothes, pirate DVDs and fake Chinese antiques can be found in Beijing.

2. Always try to find reasonably priced electronics.

3. A lack of industry standards mean that you should be very careful about

what you buy.

4. The return policy is non-existent in 98% of stores so make sure you try before you buy.

5. Credit cards are accepted in about 10% of stores and the number is growing as 2008 (the year of the Olympics) approaches.

Main Shopping Areas

Wangfujing Street

There are lots of different stores here including many which sell souvenirs. Prices not too bad, but some items are cheaper elsewhere.

Xidan Area

Many large department stores selling good brands and fixed price goods including electronic equipment like DVD players. Credit cards are widely accepted for

electronics and expensive items. There are also malls that sell cheap clothes that need to be bargained for.

Xiu Shui Jie Shopping Mall / Xiu Shui Market

Market-style shopping mall for tourists selling all kinds of clothing, bags, replica designer labels etc. All prices are negotiable so bargaining skills are essential.

Zhongguancun Area

Up in the north west corner of Beijing, this area specializes in IT equipment and is split into many small stores most of whose owners don't speak a word of English. Go here just for amusement or if you want to buy an extremely cheap modem or pirated computer software. Take an interpreter or guide.

Gyms

Case Study

David Williams, a student at Beijing Language and Culture University, loved going to the gym. He was informed that a center in Wudaokou Area was cheap and had a good selection of equipment. After paying 3,000 yuan, Mr Williams found there was no special training program and the bathroom could not be



used properly.

Tips on choosing a gym

1. Try to find those places that have a good reputation, like Nirvana, Haosha or others.

2. Never pay for more than one year.

3. Make sure there are member's ID cards, special training programs and bathing facilities.

Traffic

Case study

Bradshaw Whiteman, an American editor at *China Daily*, was knocked down by a car in Sanlitun Nanlu on April 20, 2004. Angry at being knocked down, Mr Whiteman kicked the car. The driver got out and attacked him before driving off. Mr Whiteman didn't see the car's number plate. He was taken to hospital and treated for minor head injuries.

Tips

1. Beijing has the highest concentra-

tion and variety of traffic, from pedestrians, trams and bicycles to utility vehicles like street sweepers and garbage trucks. There is twice as much to watch out for. You have to pay great attention to what is going on in front, to the sides and behind you or your vehicle at all times.

2. Pay special attention to Beijing's intersections. There is more to watch out for and more that can go wrong. Go slowly, and anticipate wrong moves

by pedestrians.

3. Always signal well in advance when turning or changing lanes. Forcing your way into another lane can cause angry or aggressive reactions.

4. Concentrate on making allowances for others when they make mistakes. This can help avoid tense situations that can lead to accidents.

5. If you do have an accident, stay calm. Call 122 for minor incidents and call 120 for an emergency.



Foreign students enjoy China.

CFP Photo

Understanding China's laws and regulations

An interview with Liu Yingbin and Ma Xuejun, officers from the Entry and Exit Administration Division

By Annie Wei

With more than 15 years experience dealing with foreigners in Beijing's Exit and Entry Administration Division, both Ma Xuejun and Liu Yingbin, know Beijing's expat community very well.

Beijing's exit and entry division has 12 departments. The main responsibility of Liu Yingbin's department is to provide services for foreign students, foreign experts, permanent foreign residents (who have Chinese green cards), foreign-invested enterprises, top hotels that cater to foreigners, as well as foreign journalists.

Every year, Ma and his colleagues prepare two sets of law and regulation presentations to be shown in Beijing's universities that recruit freshmen from abroad. Four Chi-

nese universities have a high number of foreign students: Beijing Language and Culture University, Beijing's Renmin University, Tsinghua University and Beijing University.

According to Liu's department, there were 23,000 foreign students living in Beijing between September 2005 and July 2006. Among them, more than 14,000 were Korean, 2,000 were Japanese, 1,000 Indonesian and the rest from Mongolia, Vietnam and Malaysia.

"These are only the numbers of students who want a degree from China's universities," said Ma, "There are many other students from Europe or America coming to study the language for shorter terms. And the total number keeps increasing every year." Liu and his colleagues say they are facing an increas-

ing task to provide a good quality service.

Having the chance to learn the regulations and laws during their work and study in Beijing, as well as some important tips for daily life is important for foreign students, and the emerging community that combines local and foreign residents.

"Sometimes, foreign students who lack awareness can create a negative image for their countries and themselves," Ma said. For example, some foreign-students' exceed traffic speedlimits cause panic among pedestrians. And loud house parties in local compounds cause complaints from neighbors.

Ma mentioned that as they are new to the city, it's important to help foreign students avoid scams, such as getting illegal black-market taxis,

being cheated when shopping online, or being trapped by illegal housing agencies. They try to give students full explanations and examples during the lecture.

Meanwhile, Ma said, "Each country has her own rules and we expect local and foreign residents to respect China and her rules." They emphasize the importance of undertaking the accommodation registration procedures within 24 hours at the local police station, and applying for a residence permit within 30 days of arrival.

In the end, both Ma and Liu wish newcomers their best. They advise Beijing's newest citizens to "Abide by China's laws and regulations, take care of yourself, finish your study plans and enjoy a wonderful time in Beijing."

Useful phone numbers

Police line: 110
Ambulance line: 120
Traffic accident: 122
Visa information desk: 8402 0101
Foreign Experts Management Bureau of PRC: 6894 8899
Beijing Foreign Experts Management: 6559 0180
Beijing Labor Bureau: 6301 8339 ext 12333
Service Centre of Beijing Municipal Government: 8562 2713
National Religious Affairs Bureau: 6409 5114
Beijing Quarantine Bureau: 6427 4239
Visa Section of Central Government in Hong Kong: 00852-3413 2439
Division of Taxi Management: 6835 1150
Public Transportation Division of Beijing PSB: 6401 1327
Anti-theft: 6401 1327
Fire alarm: 119
Food poisoning hotline: 8316 3388 8316 0233
Phone numbers request: 114
Phone bill (China mobile) information: 1861
Railway information and tickets: 2586
Gas group 24-hour hotline: 6594 0469 6651 0382
Gas repair: 650 22414
Electronic repair: 6312 9999
Express delivery: 185
Time check: 12117
Weather report: 211
Heating system repair: 6500 5943
Construction complaints: 6841 3817 6801 7755
Report wasting water: 6424 7906
Free pet hotline: 160101011
Inform on an illegal dog keeper: 6973 8604
Tap water repair: 6618 9955
Report a black taxi or black tour guide: 96310

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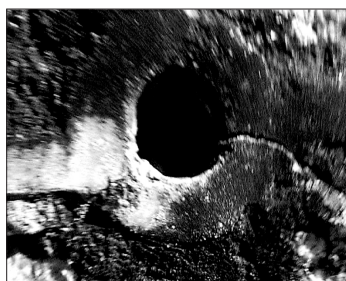
By He Jianwei

A new exhibition at Universal Studios-beijing was unveiled last Saturday as the sun was setting in the city. It was muggy in the afternoon, but it turned cooler in the evening. In the open air to the east of the studio people played dance music and rock and roll. The scent of a barbecue mingled with the sounds of the music.

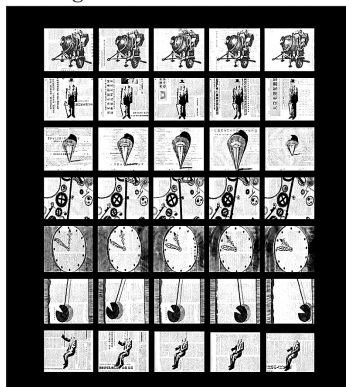
The studio is an abandoned red brick factory. If there wasn't the shining neon "UNIVERSAL STUDIOS BEIJING" sign, you wouldn't know this place that housed art.

Inside, the exhibition 'Chaos City' was being shown for the first time. Twelve artists showed off over 20 works of art including everything from nail polish paintings to video pieces.

Universal Studios-beijing is a new venue, set up in Beijing to support exhibitions and research related to contemporary visual arts, film, design, architecture and other aspects of visual culture in Beijing.



Nothing! Jue Xuan



Shock of time, hand drawing Sun Xun

"The evaluation system of Chinese calligraphy is rather conservative. Mainstream culture has seized the right to speak"

— Chen Zaiyan, one member of Yangjiang Group

Walking into the exhibition hall, I was faced with a simple wooden bridge. It was part of the Yangjiang Group's artwork. Yangjiang is a place in Guangdong Province and their group is made up of three people. Their art installation, called *Birds Fly Back and Raindrops Struck the Banana Woods*, was made in 2002.

A dozen potted plants that represented a banana forest and the pool were made of sheets of paper crumpled up into balls. Some of the paper was covered in Chinese calligraphy and was vibrating.

"The calligraphy was written by a motorcycle rider in front of our studio in Yangjiang," said Chen Zaiyan, a member

of the group. "We asked him to write the news printed on the urban newspaper, as Chinese calligraphy was always related to Tang poetry and song lyrics in mainstream culture."

The motorcycle rider was Cantonese and didn't speak Mandarin. He was a typical Cantonese, average in height but ambitious and powerful.

"The evaluation system of Chinese calligraphy is rather conservative. Mainstream culture has seized the right to speak," added Chen.

Their works were accompanied by a traditional Guangdong song called *Raindrops struck the Banana Leaves* which was sung in Cantonese.

"We have hope and future but not always tragedy in life."

— Waling Boers, director of BuroFriedrich, Berlin and co-founder of Universal Studios-beijing

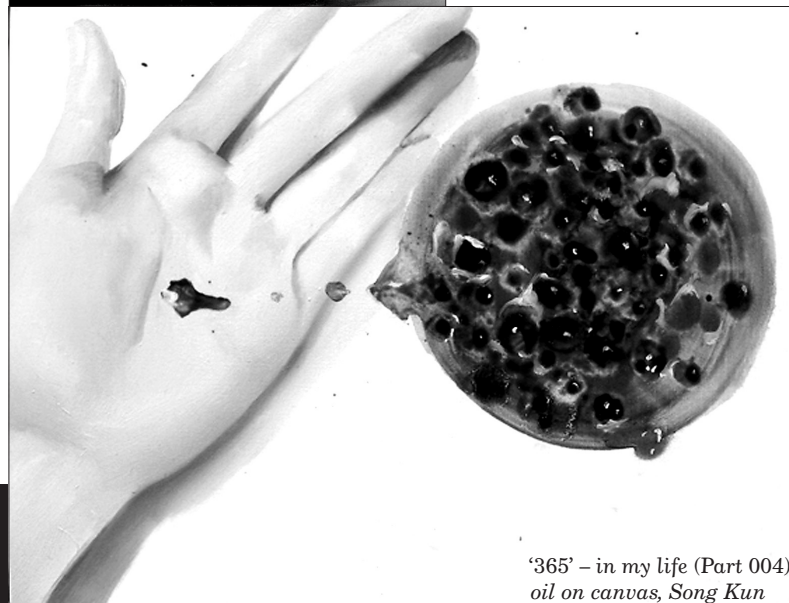
Waling Boers, director of BuroFriedrich Berlin, and co-founder of Universal Studios-beijing, was humorous and full of wisdom. The exhibition aimed to depict how young artists see the physical world, and the artists' task was not to deal with the problems in reality but to reveal the reality with their fantasy and imagination, he said.

He first came to China in 1999 and watched as the country went through rapid change. Though urban life can seem unpleasant, the artists had dared to express themselves in modern China. "We have hope and future but not always tragedy in life," said Waling.

Talking about some of the pieces he said, "The nail polish painting on the mirror is an unique form of expression. The audience becomes part of the work when they stop to look at this painting," he said.



'365' - in my life (Part 002), oil on canvas, Song Kun



'365' - in my life (Part 004), oil on canvas, Song Kun

'Chaos City' artists tackle life in urban China

Chaos City

Where: Universal Studios-beijing, No.A-8 Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: 12pm-6pm, Tuesday to Sunday, until October 10

Tel: 6432 2600

The following artists are involved in this exhibition: Chen Xiaoyun, Fu Jie, Jia Zhangke, Liu Ding, Liang Wei, Liang Yue, Qiu Anxiong, Qiu Xiaofei, Song Kun, Sun Xun, Yangjiang group, and Zhou Tao.

"I used to hide in a corner and peek out at the outside world when I was a child. I felt oppressed by urban life."

— Song Kun, the artist of "365"

On the east wall of the exhibition hall hang 88 oil paintings. The artist was a raw-boned lady called Song Kun. She told me her display was called 365 to signify her life in a year with one painting for each day of the year. The organizers selected 88 from the 365 paintings for this exhibition.

"I painted what I saw and

what I listened to in my daily life," she said. "I used to hide in a corner to perceive the outside world when I was a child."

Song was born in the 1970s and grew up in the city. "I felt oppressed by urban life. I'd like to observe and memorize actual life by painting it," she said.

Besides oil painting, she is fond of music from Iceland. "I

love Bjork, Sigur Rós, and Múm the most," she said. "They're all from Iceland. I love the music because it's pure and sensitive. When I paint, I always listen to their music."

After the talk with her, I found loneliness and fragility in her paintings: two Chinese lesbians, a lonely view of a man's back and a board of capsules.

"Chaos City will focus on how our urban life style, cityscape and new forms of reality are shaping the artistic language and psychology of emerging artists."

— Pi Li, independent critic and director of Universal Studios-beijing

"Urban development is a new phenomenon and reality in Chinese society. It is also a fundamental driving force for today's art. Unlike those previous exhibitions that dealt with urban architecture and city plan-

ning, Chaos City focuses on how the urban lifestyle, cityscape and new forms of reality are shaping the artistic language and psychology of emerging artists," said Pi Li, independent critic and director of Universal Stu-

dios-beijing.

The last work in this exhibition was a video art installation called *Nothing* by Kan Xuan. "We never expected that we could have such an effect with the arrangement of these art works," said Pi.



Public Space, film, Jia Zhangke
Lash, video looped, Chen Xiaoyun

10% off

Eat at Ming Ge Japanese restaurant (Baijiazhuang, Dongsanhuan, Chaoyang) and enjoy 10% off until September 10. For details, call 6500 7070.

**20% off**

Study at Li Sai Yoga School (108 Beisihuan Donglu, Chaoyang) and get 20% off with a teacher or student card until November 24. For details, call 8483 1105.

**40-75 yuan voucher**

Spend over 100 yuan at Xin Dong An shopping center (138 Wangfujing Dajie, Xicheng) and get 40-75 yuan discount voucher until September 30. For details, call 6526 8924.

**50% off**

Eat at Hao Jing Xuan restaurant (Si De Park, Fangyuan Xilu, Chaoyang) and enjoy 50% off special dishes until September 30. For details, call 13366603031.

**75% off**

Top Gloria shoes have been slashed in price from 1,200 to 300 yuan a pair at Zhongguancun Plaza (Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian). Selected clothes are also up to 10 percent off. For details, call 8267 4001.

**80% off**

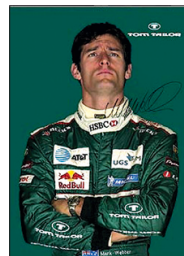
There are discounts of up to 80 percent off Bianco Clothes, designed by pop singer Fan Yiwen, at the Huateng Building (southwest corner of Jinsong Bridge). For details call 8773 0731.

**Free cosmetics**

Spend over 880 yuan on Christian Dior products at Beichen shopping mall (8 Anlilu, Anwai, Chaoyang) and get a bag of seven free cosmetics including, color lipstick, hydra cream, 10ml perfume and cheek pink glow powder. For details, call 6499 3263.

**Summer Special**

50% off laser treatment, permanent hair removal, photo facial, laser lift and leg vein removal at Confidant Medical Service (Chang An Club, 10 E Changanjie, Dongcheng). For details, call 6559 6769.

**80-90 % off**

Get up to 90 percent off men's clothing label Tom Tailor at Zhongfang (19 Jianguomennei Dajie) before the end of the month. Up to 90 percent has also been knocked off their shoe range. For details, call 6415 7701.

32% off

Drink at Yi Lian coffee bar (8 Building SOHO Jianguomenwai, Chaoyang) and enjoy 30% off until September 30. For details, call 5154 4800.

100 yuan discount voucher

Spend over 200 yuan at Chang An shopping center (15 Fuxingmenwai Dajie) and get a 100 yuan discount voucher until August 31. For details, call 6802 8851.

(By Terence Lu)

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Logo glasses

Animal instinct

These are probably called 'animal instinct glasses' because the designs feature fat orange fish and yellow birds. But seeing as you can't even drink out of them, my 'instinct' tells me that whoever slapped the price tag on was having a laugh.

Available: Buddy Buddy Delicate Shop, opposite to New World Shopping Mall, Chongwenmen

Price: 90-180 yuan

Long-legged wine glasses

Mmm, drinking wine. Classy. But wine glasses are all the same – how to stand out from the crowd? Well, check out these long legged wine glasses. Wine glass at the top, unique and unusual legs at the bottom. So instead of looking like a sheep when you're getting fruity with a gargle of full bodied Bordeaux, you'll look like a sheep with unique and unusual legs. Or maybe some other animal entirely, as long as it has weird legs. Maybe a flamingo...or are we getting too pink?

Available: Floor Four, Beichen Shopping center, Yayuncun Village, Chaoyang

Price: 60 yuan

Ball bottom glass

Buy this and you don't just get a glass, you also get two funny words, maximized to the power of funny by their close proximity. And with good reason – there is a 'ball' of something in the 'bottom' of the glass. What the hell is it? I don't know. And the manager of the shop doesn't either: "And I really don't want to know," she says, "Or I might lose interest in the glass." No chance of that with a name like this...oh look! There's a squirrel....

Available: Rose Rose Shop, 45, Xinjiekounan Dajie, Xicheng

Price: 50-75 yuan

Fancy a drink?

By Gan Tian

It's said that if you leave a glass in a friend's house, you love this friend the most. While this is probably the marketing gossip of Beijing's glass sellers wanting you to advertise their products to your friends (and find yourself a glass short next time when you have other friends round), might there not be a soupcon of Freudian truth in it? Like you leave your completely empty glass so your friend might fill it up with positivity? Let's investigate. Or at least give some free advertising to Beijing's glass sellers. Whichever.



Black seduction



Lover lover

Lover lover

One cup is blue for a boy, the other is red for a girl. Ward predatory alpha types away from your beloved by giving them one (of the cups). I gave my girlfriend the red one so everyone could see she had a boyfriend (and a cup). Unfortunately, some rich guy approached her with an entire red cutlery set. Her choice was clear. For details of my future plans, please refer to the entry on 'Black seduction'.

Available: Renren Shop, First Floor, No. 21, Chongwenmenwai Dajie, Beichen, Chaoyang

Price: 45 yuan per pair

Romantic color glasses

Ah, romance. What could be more romantic than supping from a gently colored glass? Several things spring to mind (although at least four of them are technically illegal in Beijing, at least in public), but if you're in love, what does it matter? And if you're not in

love, you'll look particularly dramatic hurling these at your former loved one's head in the throes of your break-up hissy fit. That'll teach him to get all Byronesque on your sister's ass!

Available: First Floor, Piao-liang Supermarket, Beichen, Chaoyang

Price: 55 yuan

Black seduction

This is a glass. It is black. They added the word 'seduction' to make it sound sexy. Night is black, and I would imagine that most people get seduced at night. So maybe they're on to a winner. What do you think? Email me at gantian@ynet.com and tell me: a/ 'Woah Gan Tian! Your little black cups are seriously turning me on', or b/ 'Sorry Gan Tian, your little black cups just don't do it for me.' I must warn you, I may respond to girls who answer 'a'.

Available: First Floor, Piao-liang Supermarket, Beichen, Chaoyang

Price: 55 yuan



Romantic color glasses



Long-legged wine glasses



Baby face cup



Ball bottom glass



Alligator cup

Alligator cup

Pour your morning espresso into this alligator's mouth and feel the caffeine bite. Seeing as that was the best I could come up with, it's unlikely to make Monday morning less depressing. Sigh.

Available: Renren Shop, First Floor, No. 21, Chongwenmenwai Dajie, Beichen, Chaoyang

Price: 23 yuan

Logo glasses

The word 'logo' is an alteration of the Greek word 'logos', which means a word, a saying, speech, discourse, a thought or a proposition. Basically, you can draw whatever enters your warped little mind on this little drinking receptacle. And don't say you never learn anything reading *Beijing Today*.

Available: Shuluyuan Painting Pub, First Floor, Huaqingjiayuan, Wudaokou, Haidian

Price: 40 yuan per hour (not including coffee and painting material); 68 yuan per glass (if you want to take the glasses home)

Baby face cup

"Every time I drink tea with this," one customer told me, "I just feel that I am killing this baby!" Not a ringing endorsement. But it's only 13 yuan. If I see you drinking out of it, I'll know exactly what kind of person you are. Shame on you.

Available: First Floor, Piao-liang Supermarket, Beichen, Chaoyang

Price: 13 yuan



Animal instinct



"Make mine breast. Mm hm...every time."

CFP Photo

Breastfeeding

What are the differences in Chinese and western attitudes towards breastfeeding?

Ivy

In the west a lot of mothers who breastfeed are well-educated—college graduates or professional women. In China the opposite is true. It's the women from rural areas who breastfeed more and part of that is economics. If Chinese women in the countryside can afford breastmilk substitute often they will buy it because it is considered fashionable. Educated women in China are sometimes fooled into thinking that formula is more nutritious.

A mother nursing her baby in public is still seen as a more natural thing here in China than in western countries. I often see mothers sitting on a stool, nursing their babies in public in the open market or hutong alleys but not often in restaurants, stores or hotels. It makes me wonder if higher educated Chinese mothers feel more inhibited about nursing in public.

Serena

The big difference in China is that many people do not even acknowledge that breastfeeding is better. You hear a lot of "milk powder is more scientific" and "breastfeeding loses its nutritional value after..." type statements in China.

A lot of people think that breastfeeding is best for both the baby and mother. Is this true?

Serena

That depends on whom you ask. Research clearly shows the benefits of breastfeeding. Leading government and health authorities promote breastfeeding in the US, but the formula

companies' advertising is very powerful, especially in China. Breastfeeding saves money, but nobody gets rich promoting it...

What role do you think breastmilk substitute should have in raising a baby?

Ivy

The World Health Organization (WHO) lists the preferred method of feeding a baby as breastmilk directly from the mother. Number two is pumped or expressed breastmilk. Number three is breastmilk from another woman and the last choice is formula milk. In light of that I think a lot of mothers don't realize the danger of artificial feeding. In the manufacturing process of substitute milk there is always some degree of contamination. Most mothers can increase their milk supply if they are not producing enough. There are very few mothers who don't produce enough and there is even a phenomenon known as 'induced lactation' whereby adoptive mothers can start to produce milk for their babies.

Are there any reasons why a mother should not breastfeed?

Serena

Very few. And instances where a mother should not breastfeed at all are extremely rare. In most cases a complete cessation of breastfeeding is not required; a temporary weaning of a few days to a few weeks is sufficient.

When is a child too old to be breastfed?

Serena

That is a very personal decision that varies from mother to mother and family to family according to the needs of her

By David Drakeford

August 2006
Asaw World Breastfeeding Week celebrated in 120 countries across the globe. Today we talk to two experts on breastfeeding from La Leche League in Beijing about a range of issues that face mothers in China.

Ivy is a Chinese-speaking La Leche Leader who has lived in Beijing for seven years and offers support to Chinese mothers here.

Serena is an American Leader who has lived in Beijing and worked for the League for almost seven years. She gives help to English speakers.

individual baby. The WHO recommends breastfeeding at least to the age of two years.

Breastfeeding in public: what are the unwritten rules about where and when it is appropriate?

Serena

In the US, where legislation has been passed to protect the rights of breastfeeding mothers, it has generally been the case that they can breastfeed in any location where they have a right to be. Most mothers are more concerned with not where they can breastfeed in public, but how discreetly they do so.

In China, most western women breastfeed in public as they would in their home country. A western woman breastfeeding a baby attracts a LOT of attention in China, but a western woman with a baby is going to attract a lot of attention anyway! But these women rarely report any bad reactions from local Chinese, though they often meet with disbelief as to why they would breastfeed when they are clearly able to purchase formula.

What advice do Chinese doctors usually give to mothers about breastfeeding?

Ivy

One is that your baby needs calcium, zinc or iron supplements. They tend to push supplements in contrast to our stance that a fully breastfed baby doesn't require them if under six months old. The only exception is vitamin D in rare cases. Chinese doctors also recommend starting solids

earlier than in the west. Twenty or 30 years ago western doctors recommended starting a baby on solids at three or four months of age but that can lead to allergies. The WHO and La Leche League recommend six months.

Is there a difference in breastfeeding attitudes and practices in Chinese cities compared to the countryside?

Ivy

There is a greater percentage of mothers who breastfeed in the country and they tend to nurse their baby longer. In the city there is a greater influence of marketing formula. If you open any parenting magazine there will be adverts for formula. Also these companies target mothers in hospitals. Pregnant women who are being examined in Chinese city hospitals will find there are brochures on hand and when they return home they may find they are getting coupons sent to their house. I don't know how the companies get their addresses.

Do you think that the 2004 fake breastmilk substitute scandal (where counterfeit products led to the deaths of numerous babies through malnourishment) led to any change in attitudes?

Ivy

I don't really know. There are a lot of fake products in China. People were made aware of the problem but I remember being disappointed that there wasn't timely education about the better alternative of breastfeeding.

La Leche League International is a non-profit NGO dedicated to providing education, information, support, and encouragement to women who want to breastfeed. www.lalecheleague.org/Beijing.html



Along the Lijiang River

CFP Photos

Guilin - intoxicated with mountains and rivers

Lijiang River

Lijiang River begins at the Mao'er Mountain in Xing'an County in the north-east of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, flowing past Guilin, Yangshuo, to the Gongcheng River in Pingli County. The total length is 437 kilometers.

The part of Lijiang River between Guilin and Yangshuo is 83 kilometers long, like a green ribbon flowing among the mountains. This part of Lijiang River can be divided into three parts for visiting. The first part is from Guilin to Yangdi, 46 kilometers long. Xiangbi Hill and Tashan Mountain line the riverbank. Then, from Yangdi to Xingping, is 17 kilometers. The scenes along the river here are the most beautiful. The famous Banbian Ferry, Erlang Gorge, and Hua Mountain are all along the river. The last part is from Xingping to Yangshuo, which is 20 kilometers long.

The charm of visiting Lijiang River is that you don't have to be worried about the weather. The river has a different character depending on the time of year, and each is worth the trip. When it is sunny, you can see the inverted reflections of the mountains; when it is cloudy, the mountains hide in the clouds and fog; when it is rainy, you can enjoy looking at the scene through the teardrops of a rain mist.

Xiangbi Hill (Elephant Hill)

Xiangbi Hill at the confluence of Lijiang River and Taohuajiang River perfectly captures all that the guidebooks lead you to expect in Guilin, and is thus the symbol of the city. The hill is named Xiangbi Hill (Elephant Hill) because it looks like an elephant drinking water with its trunk from the Lijiang River.

Shuiyue Cave (Water and Moon Cave) is at the foot of the hill. The cave is above the water, which makes it look like a moon hanging above the river. Visitors can row boats in the cave. Puxian Tower is at the top of Xiangbi Hill. It was built in the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 AD) in Lama tower style. There is also Sheli Tower at the

Guilin, a city whose name comes from its forests of laurels and their beautiful flowers, is famous for its natural beauty. The city is also distinguished for its sturdy character. There are tens of thousands of caves and stone hills there as well as hundreds of lakes and ponds.

Autumn is approaching. A tour of Guilin will amaze you with the beautiful mountains, rivers and fragrant laurels.



A farmer ploughs his fields



Impression Third Sister Liu



A river trip through Guilin



The real-scene drama Impression Third Sister Liu directed by Zhang Yimou

southwest part of the hill.

Opening hours: 8:30am to 4:40pm

Tickets: 25 yuan

Getting there: Take the No. 2 bus to Wenchangqiao stop. Or take No. 57 and 58 free buses to Xiangshan Park.

Seven-Star Cliff and Ludi Cliff

Seven-Star Cliff (Qixing Cliff) is at the western face of Putuo Mountain. The cliff is very deep, dividing into three strata.

Ludi Cliff is at the northwest part of Guilin, at the southern mountainside of Guangming Mountain. It was named after the ludi grass, a kind of plant which can be used for making flutes, that used to be plentiful there. Ludi Cliff is also famous for its colorful stalactites. Some of the stalactites are empty inside and act like drums when beaten.

Seven-Star Cliff

Opening hours: 8am to 5:30pm

Ticket: 65 yuan

Get there: Take No. 11 and 18 bus to Qixing Park or take No. 58 free bus.

Ludi Cliff

Opening hours: 8am to 5:30pm

Ticket: 60 yuan

Get there: Take No. 3 bus or No. 58 bus.

(By Jackie Zhang)

Accommodation

Guilin Lijiang Waterfall Hotel (Five-star)

Where: No. 1, Shanhubei Road, Guilin

Tel: 0773-282 2881, 282 3050

Guilin Boli Business Hotel (Four-star)

Where: No. 2, Jiefangdong Road, Guilin

Tel: 0773-581 5499, 581 5799

Guilin Tailian Hotel (Three-star)

Where: No. 12, Zhongshanzhong Road, Guilin

Tel: 0773-289 2888



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Food

Guilin mifen (Guilin rice noodles)

The most famous food in Guilin. It is made by grinding top quality rice into powder, then making the powder into liquid. When the liquid congeals, it is made into a paste. This paste is then made into rice noodles. Rice noodles are white, soft and smooth. People make rice noodles of different flavors with different seasonings. There are beef rice noodles, horse meat rice noodles, rice noodles with vinegary and spicy flavors and more.

Lotus leaf duck

The ducks are wrapped with lotus leaves. The taste is fresh and fragrant. Different kinds of stuffing are put inside the ducks.

Nun vegetarian noodles

The key factor that makes the nun vegetarian noodles delicious is the soup. The soup is made with soybean sprout, mushrooms, winter bamboo shoots and so on. The soup is of a gold color, tasting fragrant and sweet. Noodles are served with the soup, together with vegetarian seasoning.



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China

Siem Reap at the north-west of Cambodia was once just a dusty track with a few storefronts. It now supports a host of large five-star hotels and resorts, fine-dining options aplenty, and the kind of good services, shops, galleries, and spas, that make the little city a new oasis of luxury in parched western Cambodia.

Siem Reap is six kilometers to the south of the ruins of the ancient city Angkor, capital of the Khmer Kingdom (802-1295 AD), one of the world marvels. It makes Siem Reap a popular tourism destination.

A three-or-four-day visit will suffice to come away with a new-found love for ancient cultures, Asian religions and sunsets. Good options abound for visiting more far-flung temple ruins and trekking or boat trips to remote mangrove swamps and a large bird sanctuary are enough to keep you busy for a stay of any length.



Wat Temple – one of the largest monuments to religion ever built

CFP Photos

The ancient ruins of Siem Reap



A monk stands in the entrance of Siem Reap, Angkor Wat Temple.

Angkor Wat

There are few places anywhere on earth to match the splendor of Angkor Wat. The temple is one of the largest monuments to religion ever built and is truly one of the wonders of the world.

Believed to have been constructed as a temple and mausoleum for King Suryavarman II at the peak of the Khmer empire in the first half of the 12th century, Angkor Wat is probably the best-preserved Angkorean temple. As with other Angkorean temples and walled cities such as Angkor Thom, the central theme of Khmer architecture revolved around the idea of the temple-mountain. By the time building on Angkor Wat was begun in the 12th century, this had been elaborated to a central tower surrounded by four smaller towers. The central monument represents the mythical Mount Meru, the holy mountain at the center of the universe, home to the Hindu god Vishnu. The five towers symbolize Mount Meru's five peaks.

It is difficult to express in words the enormous scale of Angkor Wat, but it can be explained in part by a look at the dimensions of the complex. The temple is surrounded by a moat which makes the one around the Tower of London, built at roughly the same time, look like nothing more than a garden trench. But the moat was more than just a defensive bulwark. In line with the temple's Hindu origins it represented the oceans of the world. A rectangular wall measuring 1,025 by 800



Angkor Wat Temple



An elder Cambodian



Locals shower under a waterfall.

meters borders the inner edge. There is a gate in each side of the wall, but unusually for the mainly Hindu-influenced Angkorian temples, the main entrance faces west. This entrance is a richly decorated portico, 235m wide with three gates. However, the temple's greatest sculptural treasure is its 2km-long

bas-reliefs around the walls of the outer gallery and the hundred figures of devatas and apsaras. This intricately carved gallery tells stories of the god Vishnu and of Suryavarman II's successes on the battlefield. The whole complex covers 81 hectares.

Kulen Mountain

Kulen Mountain spans the Districts of Svay Len and Va Rin, 48-kilometers from the provincial town of Siem Reap.

Here you can visit Chup Preah, a plain spot with cool water falls in the mountain's valley. Next to it there is the huge, rare, Cham Pa tree of 0.7-meters in diameter and 15-meters high. At Chup Preah, there is a big Buddhist statue and many other small statues made during 16th century.

The Terrace of Sdach Kum Ling is a plain terrace with a small ruined temple made of solid brick at the middle. Archeological and geological studies show that the terrace was covered by lava for hundreds of years.

Preah Ang Thom is a big statue of a Buddhist who had achieved nirvana. The statue was built in 16th century. Preah Ang Thom is sacred to the worship of the god of Kulen Mountain.

At Kulen Mountain, there are two waterfalls. The first is four to five-meters high and 20 to 25-meter across, depending on the season. The second waterfall is 15 to 20-meters high and 10 to 15-meters across.

(By Jackie Zhang)

Get to Siem Reap:

There are many flights between Siem Reap, the Angkor region and Asia, including Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and, of course, Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia. There is also a bus and a boat that travel between Siem Reap and Phnom Penh.

The airport in Siem Reap is about 6kms from the town center and is quite close to the temples, which occasionally provides spectacular views of Angkor Wat during landings or take off. Outside the terminal building are plenty of willing drivers to take you to the hotel or guesthouse of your choice.

Motos are usually about one dollar and taxi cars are between US\$5-7 for a ride into town. However, most hotels do offer free transportation from the airport.



A Buddha's smile



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P&G Internship

Be the early bird in the real business world



Richard Chen got a Masters in management from Sun Yat-sen University. He got offered a full-time job at the company in September after doing a two-month internship in their customer business development department.

As it is a company that focuses on my favorite industry, packaged goods, and as it is a company that offers a good training program and career development opportunities, P&G was at the top of my list when I started looking for jobs. When I was preparing for the P&G interview I researched P&G's culture and what it expects from its employees. I also prepared questions I thought they may ask me.

In my first round interview, I talked about problems I had faced and how I had overcome them. The interviewer suddenly chipped in when I mentioned a market research project I had done and asked, "What type of product and how much was it?" I was surprised the interviewer had suddenly asked me such a detailed question. At the intern training after I was selected, I learnt that P&G puts a lot of emphasis on the integrity of its employees. By asking in detail about a project I'd done in the past, the interviewer could easily test if I was telling the truth or not.

Shortly after I got the internship, P&G appointed an experienced employee to take me under his wing. From the day I joined the company to the day when I finally got a full-time job offer, he has guided me through my internship and helped with any problems I have had. P&G pays close attention to their interns. We were even invited to the department's end-of-year conference. Although we knew nothing about P&G, we were invited to take part in discussions and enjoy the same standard of hotel as the regular staff and even got given gifts at the end of the conference.

The biggest challenge I faced as an intern was to play the role of sales representative who visits small shops, something every newcomer to my department has to do. I had to visit 150 small stores in Guangzhou and sell our products to them within a month. The task may sound easy but for a student who has never done sales before and whose only other internship experience was sitting behind a desk, it was a really big task.

I had to wear work clothes, ride a bicycle full of goods, take part in all the morning meetings, write up the visiting records, sell the goods and load and unload the goods everyday. Whether it was raining or sunny, I had to ride around selling our products. I had to forget that I was a university student and try to negotiate with all the stores. That task was one of the most unforgettable things I've ever done. Although it was very difficult I managed to do it.

By Han Manman

We started our internship program in 2002 in China. More than 200 interns have graduated from this program and become full-time employees. Our main intern project is called the 'Challenging Internship Project.' After taking part in a session offering a basic introduction to P&G, our interns take up a role in a specific project for a particular area of our business. Interns are given real responsibility on meaningful projects with targets that will be assessed. The projects can include everything from market analysis to cost saving plans. In the next two months, our interns will be acting like real P&G managers with the potential to have a real impact on the business.

Interns are not left alone in our company. Various partners are assigned to look after the interns. The intern's line manager is responsible for giving them direction, coaching and the necessary skills to complete their assignments. We will get a member of staff whose experience is similar to our

interns, to look after and befriend them. We will also get a senior manager at P&G to guide the interns through their career concerns. We provide complete support around the clock to help our interns grow and succeed.

What's unique about the P&G internship is that we give our interns full-time job offers after their internship has been evaluated. If they get the results that we expect during their time here we will give them a job.

As our internship program is so closely linked with our full-time recruitment, we choose our interns in the same way that we choose our full-time employees. In our interviews we are looking for people who are able to build and lead teams made up of a broad variety of people, those who can use innovation and knowledge to solve problems and those who are flexible enough to adapt to changes whilst not losing sight of their goals.

—Sylvia Lin, Recruiting Manager, Human Resources, Greater China P&G.



Cheryl Lin got a bachelor's degree in finance from Sun Yat-sen University. She joined P&G's consumer market knowledge (CMK) department last summer and was offered a full-time job in Sept.

I applied to the CMK department because its main requirement was for people who are logical and have good analytical skills, which are two of my strengths. So in the interview I played up to my strengths. I also showed the interviewer that I could think innovatively by giving some examples from past experience and I think this impressed the interviewers. In an interview it's important to give the interviewer something that shows how you're different from other interviewees, something that they will remember you by.

When I started as an intern, my line manager gave me some training before assigning me to a project on media analysis. I had to probe into a sea of data to get some findings that would be valuable to the business. As this analysis was comprehensive

and involved all the categories it was a tough task so I knew I had to use all my skills to accomplish it. I soon found that improvement came with the challenge.

When I finished this project, I gave my project presentation to my team and the CMK director. As CMK is strict on intern evaluation, it was really exciting to receive a full-time offer from the company.

In the CMK department you are expected to be both a researcher and a businessman. You have to communicate with consumers and deal with data and give helpful and valuable advice to the business based on the consumers and data. You need to have good solutions, a good analysis, and also good collaboration with colleagues.

My internship interview was just like a full-time interview. P&G normally begins recruiting early in the autumn for both full-time and intern positions. It is obvious that it is an excellent opportunity especially for recent graduates who need experience.

Bearing all of that in mind, I applied for an internship position online. I was given an interesting online test more or less like a psychology exam. I decided just to be myself to see if I had what they were looking for.

Once I had passed the online test I got an invitation to a fabulous P&G presentation, which included an awesome fashion show.

After passing the math, reading and English test, I finally faced the real challenge - three interviews: a screen interview, case study and final one-on-three interview. I can't recall any specific questions

the interviewers asked, but I do remember that there was a good atmosphere and that I made many friends during the interviews.

The thing I really appreciated about my internship was that I was encouraged to really think for myself by my line manager. On my first day she passed me a holistic work plan for my two-month internship and discussed her expectations in terms of my projects and then just encouraged me to get started under those guidelines.



William Jiang did a seven-week internship last year and joined the P&G product supply department after getting a Masters from Zhejiang University State Key lab of Silicon Materials in July.

I didn't have any internship experience before joining P&G. However, I did have a lot of research experience and the project we researched in the lab was awarded the second prize of State Science and Technology Awards.

I applied to P&G because I knew the company provided a systematic training program for interns and gave them a lot of responsibility and the opportunity to develop their skills.

I was really excited on the first day. P&G's human resources department did a fantastic job at welcoming us all. A P&G bus picked us up from the airport, we stayed in a five-star hotel and were given a detailed training guide and a guide of Guangzhou. I was also impressed by the efficiency of the intern procedure like setting up personal records and organizing medical insurance for all of us. My mentor also designed a training plan and internship work schedule for me on the first day.

I felt full trust by P&G throughout the internship. Although I was only an intern, I was even given the chance to take charge of a project. Before my boss traveled for business, he talked with me to make sure I had a good understanding of the project I was working on and then asked me to take charge of the project instead of him.

In the product supply department, leadership, teamwork and good communication is very important. The people who worked in the production line had mostly worked there for many years and had much more experience than me. But after receiving management training, I would become their boss, which is a huge challenge. I had to establish good relationships with my department colleagues and work from the most basic level. I had to work very hard to get their respect.

My suggestions for students would be to get some internship experience as early as possible, don't just stay on campus for the whole of your four years. Getting out and working will give you a better idea of what you want to get out of life once you leave university.

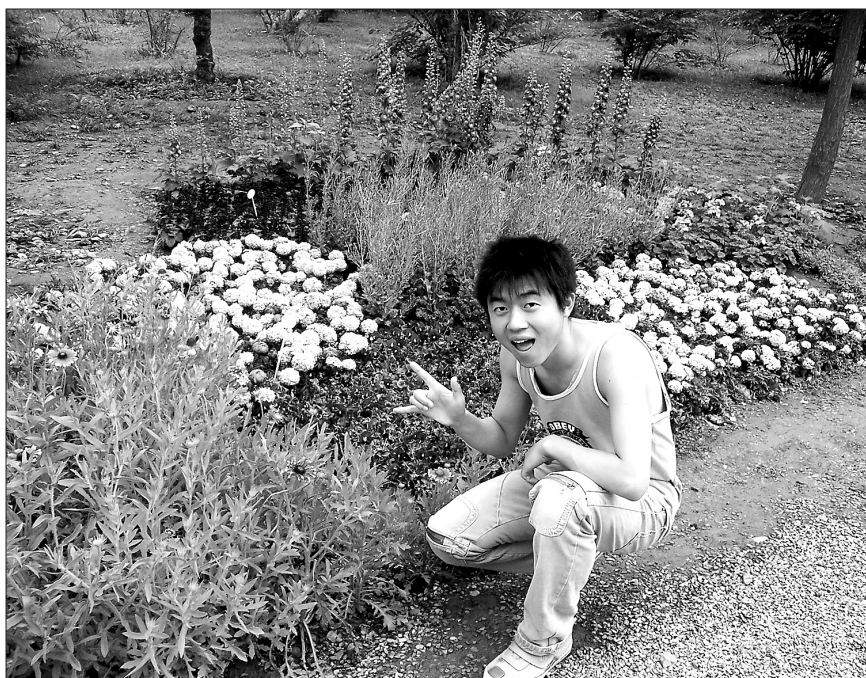
Angela Shi graduated from the International Business and Trade School at the University of International Business and Economics. She is currently working in the finance and accounting department after doing a two-month internship in the global business services department last summer.



Follow Beijing Today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

My muscular small roommate



Yang Chao is a student of Beijing Forestry University.

By Yang Chao

Tang Wentao, one of my roommates, was famous for his humor and warm-heartedness, which has made him a very popular person. He is not tall but strong. He often shows us his muscle when we joke on him

for his height, which has given him the name of "muscular small man".

Tang's face is round with two big black eyes flashing on it, below which there is a handsome high-bridged nose. He always looks spirited because of his thick and bris-

tly hair.

Looking at his black skin, you will think that he like sports and indeed it is a truth. He loves basketball as he values his life. He will spend several hours on the basketball court except that there isn't any time available. He will become in fine fettle when he touches the basketball no matter how depressed he felt at the last minute. He said he will go to the court to play basketball when he is very happy or sad and it is the way he expresses his feelings.

The classmates like Tang because he often makes the classroom full of laughter. He makes a humorous atmosphere not only through his words but also through the expression of his eyes and body. On the other hand, Tang is a person with a warm heart. He often comes to help you in time when you have some problems. For example, every time somebody shouts in the dormitory: "Who will go to the canteen with me", he will answer without any hesitation: "Me". Of course we know he is not always so hungry. He just doesn't want to see others go to the canteen alone with disappointment.

In some ways, Tang has features of his own. Let me take his ambition for example, he said he wants to pursue study specializing in Chinese Literature though he is English major now. At the beginning, I just take his words as a fun. However, seeing he spends several hours in the classroom reading *The Principle of Literature*, I believe him and I hope he will realize his dream.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see any chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Business as unusual



Photo by Liu Yongli

By Philip Space
Export

This mistake is a perfect example of why, when looking for an English word in your English-Chinese dictionary, it is best to then double-check the English word in Chinese. Yes, in Chinese there is a word that means both 'exit' and 'export' but in English they are quite different. 'Exit' means 'to leave' or 'a place where you can leave', 'export' means to send something abroad for sale. The sign should, of course, read 'exit' to show people where to leave the building. Instead it looks like directions for international businessmen to prepare their goods to leave the country.

Around the bend



Photo by Du Chunqi

By Philip Space

It in construction ahead. Visitors go around it!

This sign was found at the Summer Palace. Poor grammar, bad spelling and even unnecessary punctuation make it very difficult to understand. 'It' is a pronoun used to replace a noun that has been used previously. Here we don't know what 'it' is. 'Visitors' has been misspelled and why the exclamation mark? We normally use that for something exciting or funny but the only funny thing here is the bad English. Much better would be a more direct translation: 'Construction ahead. Please go around'

Kirk Kenny replies

Dear Yang Chao

First of all, I want to commend you for writing such a detailed and vivid account of your friend, Tang. It's not always easy writing about a person because it involves the difficult task of describing both the physical appearance of someone as well as his/her personality. You give a fairly comprehensive, detailed and personal picture of your friend, which is great. However, there are some grammatical and other issues that need to be worked on to make your writing stronger.

The first problem is your title: you need to change the order of your adjectives so that it reads, "My small, muscular roommate." This is a kind of fixed pattern when putting adjectives together in a list—size is usually at the beginning. The next issue is one of verb tense. In the first paragraph you mention that your friend "was famous for" several reasons. In the next sentence you say he "is not" tall. Here, you need to choose a verb tense and stick with it. I'm sure your friend is still humorous and warm-hearted, so you're best to stick with "is".

In the next paragraph you mention that his skin is "black," but "dark" is probably a better word unless your friend is from Africa. And in the same sentence, instead of saying, "you will think . . . and it is indeed a truth," you can simply write: "Looking at his dark skin you can tell that he really likes sports and spends a lot of time outdoors." This makes the sentence sound a little more natural. Again with the verb tense, you needn't say he "will" spend time outside; instead, say, "he often spends

time . . .". The same is true for the following sentences. It's a little unclear what you mean by being "in fine fettle" but a more natural way of expressing this might be, "he always finds happiness on the basketball court." And instead of saying "when" he is happy or sad, you should say "whether" he is happy or sad, as these are two opposite emotions that we generally don't feel at the same time.

In the next paragraph you should say "His classmates" instead of "The classmates" as it is unclear which group of students "the" refers to. The next sentence should read: "He brings humor and light-heartedness to the classroom" instead of saying "a humorous atmosphere"—this is more how we would say it in Chinese but not in English. And instead of saying "On the other hand" you should say "At the same time" because the two points you're making are complimentary and not at odds with one another. "On the other hand," is when you're showing two very different or opposite points of view. Finally, in this paragraph, the last line should read "disappointed" instead of "with disappointment."

The opening line of the last paragraph is vague and awkward. I think what you're trying to say is: "Tang is unique" or, you could say, "Tang is really one of a kind." Your next sentence is what we call a "run-on" sentence: "Let me . . . for example, he said . . .". It should be two separate sentences or should be joined with a colon or semi-colon (;).

Putting the three verbs together, "pursue," "study" and "specializing" doesn't work, so you



Kirk Kenny is an English teacher at Beijing New Channel School.

should change it to read "continue specializing in . . .". In the next sentence, you again need to pay attention to the verb tense. You should say, "took" instead of "take" because you are referring to "the beginning" or the past. In English we don't say, "as a fun;" instead, we say "as a joke" or you might write, "I didn't take him seriously." And finally, you should write, "watching him spend" instead of "seeing he spends."

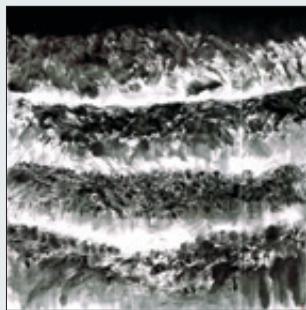
Again, your point of view is detailed and personal, which is super. If you pay more attention to your grammar, your writing will be even clearer and more enjoyable to your readers.

Best,
Kirk



Friday, September 1

Exhibition From Paris to Beijing – Nan Fang Solo Exhibition



Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-6:30pm, until September 8
Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 4122, 1391166261 Zhao Shidong Solo Exhibition

Zhao Shidong's oil paintings combine softness and colors in harmony, leaving a long lasting impression on viewers.

Where: Beijing Central Art Gallery & Cultural Venue, River-ville Square, No 1 District One,

Tianzhu, Shunyi
When: Daily 10am-10pm, until September 8
Admission: Free

Tel: 6450 8483, 6450 8646 Chaos City

Where: Universal Studios, No A-8 Caochangdi, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until October 10
Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 2600

Movie A Bout de Souffle (Breathless)

The simple story of a young wannabe gangster on the run from the police. He hooks up with an American girl and they make a lame bid to flee to Italy.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang
When: 6pm, until September 6
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



Saturday, September 2

Exhibition Return of 'Inside Shan Hai Guan' Contemporary Art Exhibition



Where: Gallery Beijing Space, 3818 Warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm, until September 30
Admission: Free
Tel: 13381221188

Yang Chun Bai Xue Contemporary Oil Painting Exhibition



Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, Hua Wei Li 1-1E (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang
When: Daily 9:30am-7pm, until September 25

Admission: Free
Tel: 8779 0461, 8779 0458

Movie Tanguy



Tanguy is 28 years old and still living with his parents. They think it's time he moved out. He doesn't, so they hatch a plan...

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang
When: 8pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Outdoor Weekend tour to Tianjin

Where: The first day will be a unique historical architecture tour to explore the old districts and areas that are not open to individual visitors. Stay overnight in the famous historical Astor Hotel and explore other cultural sights in Tianjin, including the famous Yangliuqing Village, and return by train to Beijing on Sunday evening.

When: Meet at the International Ticket Office on the left of the first floor of Beijing Railway Station on 8am Saturday.
Tel: 6432 9341

(Chinese Culture Club)



Exhibition Karel Stoop Solo Exhibition



Where: Gallery Perif, 798 Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until September 29
Admission: Free
Tel: 13581859097

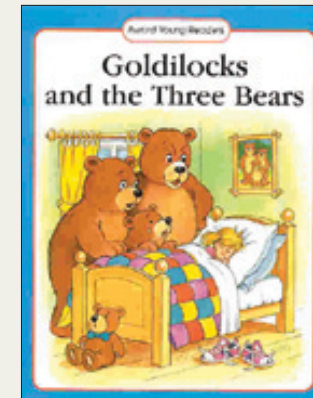
Su Xinping Prints Exhibition



Where: 798/Red Gate Gallery, Dashanzi Art District, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, until October 1
Admission: Free
Tel: 6525 1005

Movie Boucle d'Or (Goldilocks and the Three Bears)



Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Goldilocks. She went for a walk in the forest. Pretty soon, she came upon a house. She knocked and, when no one answered, she walked right in...

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang

When: 3pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Outdoor Vineyard & Wine-tasting

Where: Explore winery and vineyards at Huailai, Hebei province. Huailai boasts the best soil and climate for grape planting. Go to Huailai to visit the Sino-French Chateau, one of the best vineyards in China. Visit the winery, see winemaking processes, and differentiate different types of wine grapes in the vineyard.

When: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club at 9am. Bus returns to CCC at about 6pm.

Cost: 280 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341

(Chinese Culture Club)

Stage in October

Dance

Russian Cossack State Dance Company's debut in Beijing

Who: Russian Cossack State Dance Company

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, October 1-2

Opera

Così fan tutte, Opera Buffa in Two Acts

Who: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Where: Poly Theatre, No

14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 8-9

Nose, Opera in Three Acts

Who: Dmitri Shostakovich

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 13

La Traviata, Opera in Three Acts

Who: Giuseppe Verdi

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 29

Music

Grand opening of the 9th Beijing Music Festival

Who: Mariinsky Orchestra with Valery Gergiev

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 2-3

Maurizio Pollini Piano Recital

Who: Famous Italian Pianist Maurizio Pollini

Where: Poly Theatre, No

14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 4

A Night of Russian Music

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, October 6

Dmitri Shostakovich Song Cycle

Who: Dmitri Shostakovich

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, October 10

Paul Badura-Skoda Recital

Who: Paul Badura-Skoda

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 15

BBC Symphony Orchestra Concert

Who: BBC Symphony Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, October 24-25
(By Qiu Jiaoning)